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WATER MANAGEMENT
LANDS TRUST FUND

SAVE OUR RIVERS

FIVE YEAR PLAN

INFORMATION BOOKLET

1986

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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South Florida Water Management District

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Five Year Plan

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Florida Resource Rivers Act

373.59 Water Management Lands Trust Fund.

(1) There is established within the Department of Environmental Regulation the Water Management Lands Trust Fund, to be used as a non-lapsing fund for the purposes of this section. The moneys in this fund are hereby continually appropriated for the purpose of acquiring land in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(2) Subsequent to public hearings, similar to those held pursuant to chapter 120.54, each district shall file a 5-year plan for acquisition with the Legislature and the Secretary of Environmental Regulation by January 15, 1982. Annually thereafter, each district shall file with the Legislature and the secretary a report of acquisition activity together with modifications or additions to its 5-year plan of acquisition. Expenditure of moneys from the Water Management Lands Trust Fund shall be limited to the costs for acquisition of lands included within the plan as filed by each district; however, no such acquisition of lands shall occur without a public hearing similar to those held pursuant to the provisions set forth in chapter 120.54.

(a) Prior to July 15, 1982, the use of moneys from the fund shall be limited to the following land acquisitions:

1. By South Florida Water Management District—lands in the water conservation areas and areas adversely affected by raising water levels of Lake Okeechobee in accordance with present regulation schedules, and the Savannahs Wetland area in Martin County and St. Lucie County.

2. By Southwest Florida Water Management District—lands in the Four River Basins areas, including Green Swamp, Upper Hillsborough and Cypress Creek, Anclote Water Storage Lands (Starkey), Withlacoochee and Hillsborough riverine corridors, and Sawgrass Lake addition.

3. By St. Johns River Water Management District—Seminole Ranch, Latt Maxey and Evans properties in the upper St. Johns River Basin.

4. By Suwannee River Water Management District—lands in Suwannee River Valley.

5. By Northwest Florida Water Management District—lands in the Choctawhatchee and Apalachicola River Valleys.

(b) After July 15, 1982, the use of moneys from the fund shall be used for continued acquisition of lands listed in paragraph (a) and as set forth in the 5-year land acquisition plan of the district.

(3) Moneys from the Water Management Lands Trust Fund shall be used for acquiring the fee or other interest in lands necessary for water management, water supply, and the conservation and protection of water resources, except that such moneys shall not be used for the acquisition of rights-of-way for canals or pipelines. Lands acquired with moneys from the fund shall be managed and maintained in an environmentally acceptable manner, and to the extent practicable, in such a way as to restore and protect their natural state and condition. The secretary of the Department of Environmental Regulation shall release moneys from the Water Management Lands Trust Fund to the district following receipt of a resolution adopted by the governing board identifying the lands being acquired and certifying that such acquisition is consistent with the plan of acquisition and other provisions of this act. The governing board shall also provide to the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Regulation a copy of all certified appraisals used to determine the value of the land to be purchased. If the purchase price is greater than the appraisal price, the governing board shall submit written justification for the increased price. The Secretary of the

Department of Environmental Regulation may withhold moneys for any purchase that is not consistent with the five-year plan, the intent of this act or in excess of appraised value. The governing board may appeal any denial to the Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission pursuant to section 373.114, Florida Statutes.

(4) Water management land acquisition costs shall include payments to owners and costs and fees associated with such acquisition.

(5) If a district issues revenue bonds or notes under s. 373.584, the district may pledge its share of the moneys in the Water Management Lands Trust Fund as security for such bonds or notes. The Department of Environmental Regulation shall pay moneys from the trust fund to a district or its designee sufficient to pay the debt service, as it becomes due, on the outstanding bonds and notes of the district; however, such payments shall not exceed the district's cumulative portion of the trust fund. However, any moneys remaining after payment of the amount due on the debt service shall be released to the district pursuant to subsection (3).

(6) Any unused portion of a district's share of the fund shall accumulate in the trust fund to the credit of that district. Interest earned on such portion shall also accumulate to the credit of that district to be used for land acquisition as provided in this section. The total moneys over the life of the fund available to any district under this section shall not be reduced except by resolution of the district governing board stating that the need for the moneys no longer exists.

(7) Moneys from the Water Management Lands Trust Fund shall be available to the five water management districts in the following percentages:

- (a) Thirty percent to the South Florida Water Management District.
- (b) Twenty-five percent to the Southwest Florida Water Management District.
- (c) Twenty-five percent to the St. Johns River Water Management District.
- (d) Ten percent to the Suwannee River Water Management District.
- (e) Ten percent to the Northwest Florida Water Management District.

Notwithstanding the distribution formula specified in paragraphs (a) through (e), in fiscal year 1985-1986, the first proceeds of the Water Management Land Trust Fund in an amount of \$500,000 shall be distributed equally among the five water management districts, and shall be used by the districts to develop acquisition plans and management plans for lands acquired with moneys from the Water Management Lands Trust Fund. Moneys that remain in the Water Management Lands Trust Fund after such distribution shall be available to the districts according to the formula specified in paragraphs (a) through (e).

(8) Moneys in the fund not needed to meet current obligations incurred under this section shall be transferred to the State Board of Administration, to the credit of the fund, to be invested in the manner provided by law. Interest received on such investments shall be credited to the fund.

(9) Lands acquired for the purposes enumerated in this section shall also be used for general public recreational purposes. General public recreational purposes shall include, but not be limited to fishing, hunting, horseback riding, swimming, camping, hiking, canoeing, boating, diving, birding, sailing, jogging, and other related outdoor activities to the maximum extent possible considering the environmental sensitivity and suitability of those lands. These public lands shall be evaluated for their resource value for the purpose of establishing which parcels, in whole or in part, annually or seasonally would be conducive to general

public recreational purposes. These lands shall be made available to the public for these purposes, unless the district governing board can demonstrate that such activities would be incompatible with the purposes for which these lands were acquired.

(10) A district may dispose of land acquired under this section, pursuant to s. 373.089. However, revenue derived from such disposal may not be used for any purpose except the purchase of other lands meeting the criteria specified in this section, or payment of debt service on revenue bonds or notes issued under s. 373.584 as provided in this section.

(11) No moneys generated pursuant to this act may be applied or expended subsequent to the effective date of this act to reimburse any district for prior expenditures for land acquisition from ad valorem taxes or other funds other than its share of the funds provided herein or to refund or refinance outstanding debt payable solely from ad valorem taxes or other funds other than its share of the funds provided herein.

201.02

(1) On deeds, instruments, or writings whereby any lands, tenements, or other realty, or any interest therein, shall be granted, assigned, transferred, or otherwise conveyed to, or vested in, the purchaser, or any other person by his direction, on each \$100 of the consideration therefore the tax shall be 50 cents. When the full amount of the consideration for the execution, assignment, transfer, or conveyance is not shown in the face of such deed, instrument, document, or writing, the tax shall be at the rate of 50 cents for each \$100 or fractional part thereof of the consideration therefore.

Section 7. Effective August 1, 1985, section 201.15, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

201.15 Distribution of taxes collected.

All taxes collected under the provisions of this chapter shall be distributed as follows:

(1) Seventy-four and six-tenths percent of the total taxes collected under the provisions of this chapter shall be paid into the State Treasury to the credit of the General Revenue Fund of the state, to be used and expended for the purposes for which the General Revenue Fund was created and exists by law.

(2) Twelve and five-tenths percent of the total taxes collected under the provisions of this chapter shall be paid into the State Treasury to the credit of the Land Acquisition Trust Fund. Sums deposited in such fund pursuant to this subsection may be used for any purpose for which funds deposited in the Land Acquisition Trust Fund may lawfully be used and may be used to pay the cost of the collection and enforcement of the tax levied by this chapter.

(3) Three and one-tenth percent of the total taxes collected under the provisions of this chapter shall be paid into the State Treasury to the credit of the Land Acquisition Trust Fund. Moneys deposited in the trust fund pursuant to this section shall be used for the following purposes:

(a) Sixty percent of the moneys shall be used to acquire coastal lands; and

(b) Forty percent of the moneys shall be used to develop and manage lands acquired with moneys from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund.

*(4) Nine and eight-tenths percent of the total taxes collected under the provisions of this chapter shall be paid into the State Treasury to the credit of the Water Management Lands Trust Fund. Sums deposited in that fund may be used for any purpose authorized in s. 373.59 and may be used to pay the cost of the collection and enforcement of the tax levied by this chapter.

*Save Our Rivers Funding

South Florida Water Management District Land Acquisition Policy

Section 373.59, F.S.

A. Statement of Policy

1. The Governing Board recognizes a need to provide guidelines for selecting properties to be acquired under the Resource Rivers Act (Section 373.59, Florida Statutes), which is also known as the Save Our Rivers Program. These guidelines include procedures for land selection and acquisition and are intended as an addition and complementary to Rule 40E-7, Florida Administrative Code.
2. It is the Governing Board's intention to implement the Save Our Rivers Program in a manner that will provide long-term benefit to the citizens living within the District as well as the water resources of the District.
3. It is the goal of this Program to acquire necessary interests in lands for water management, water supply and conservation and protection of water resources.
4. In compliance with Section 373.59, Florida Statutes, the District will file an annual five-year plan for land acquisition with the Department of Environmental Regulation and the Florida Legislature.
5. Funding for the Save Our Rivers Program is derived from revenue collected from the documentary stamp tax and it is administered by the Department of Environmental Regulation.
6. To most effectively administer the Save Our Rivers Program, close coordination will be maintained with all other public land acquisition programs.

B. SCOPE

This policy will apply to all property recommended for acquisition under the Save Our Rivers Program.

C. PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

1. DEFINITIONS:

- a. **Acquisition** — acquiring title to land in fee, or in the discretion of the District, such other legal interest necessary for water management, water supply, or the conservation and protection of water resources.
- b. **Board** — the members of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District.
- c. **Department** — the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation.
- d. **District** — the South Florida Water Management District.
- e. **Plan** — the five-year plan as approved by the Governing Board of the District.
- f. **Project** — a parcel or parcels of land in a discrete unit of purchase.
- g. **Secretary** — the Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation.
- h. **Selection Committee** — a committee formed to recommend land purchases.
- i. **Survey** — a certified survey signed by a licensed land surveyor authorized to practice surveying in the State of Florida.

2. **REPORTS AND RECORDS:** District staff shall prepare for the Governing Board, on an annual basis, a status report on all properties to be acquired and those that have been

acquired. Records of all contacts with property owners shall be retained in the Department of Land Management.

3. TYPES AND CATEGORIES OF LANDS FOR PURCHASE: Acquisition options fall under two basic categories: degree of interest in land to be acquired and types of land to be acquired.

a. Fee or other interest in land includes:

1. fee title purchase,
2. purchase of easements,
3. purchase of development rights,
4. fee purchase with lease-back of certain rights,
5. fee purchase with resale, reserving certain rights,
6. joint purchase of interests with other agencies,
7. lease of property, or
8. gifts of interest in land.

b. Types of land considered for purchase include:

1. river and stream flood plains,
2. river and stream flood ways,
3. river and stream flood hazard areas,
4. river and stream littoral areas,
5. springs,
6. lakes including littoral zones,
7. lake buffer zones,
8. recharge areas,
9. wetlands,
10. well fields,
11. unique water features,
12. lands needed to retain or store water, or
13. remainders of land ownerships included in 1 through 12.

The above are intended as examples; other types of land that qualify under 4 b., will be considered.

4. CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF EACH SUGGESTED ACQUISITION PROJECT: Each proposed project shall be evaluated using the following criteria:

- a. The proposed project must be within the jurisdictional boundaries of the South Florida Water Management District.
- b. The proposed project shall be necessary for water management, water supply and/or the conservation and protection of water resources.
- c. The proposed project must be part of a river system, a lake, associated with the recharge of a water body, a wetland, groundwater recharge area or water storage area.
- d. The proposed project should contain lands that are primarily in their natural state, or be susceptible to restoration, or have certain significant environmental values which should be retained or improved.
- e. The proposed project, where feasible, shall be used for general public recreational purposes, considering the environmental sensitivity and suitability.

- f. The proposed project shall be acquired for public purposes, however, where compatible, private uses may be considered as secondary uses of the project.
 - g. The proposed project shall be in conformity with all adopted plans.
 - h. The proposed project shall be evaluated considering the available management alternatives.
 - i. The proposed project must have an estimated acquisition cost and include any necessary development costs.
 - j. The proposed project shall be evaluated for ecological value, including consideration of species of fish and wildlife and viable habitat; geological features; water quality and quantity; contribution to viability of adjacent areas, and other similar considerations.
 - k. The proposed project shall be evaluated for historical and archeological value.
 - l. The proposed project shall be evaluated for vulnerability and susceptibility to degradation caused by man's activities, directly or indirectly, including encroaching development of residential or commercial activity, land alteration activities and land use changes.
 - m. The proposed project shall be evaluated for its location within the State, considering the need for a balance of available resources and proximity to urban areas.
 - n. The Selection Committee shall recommend to the Board such revisions to the above criteria found to be necessary for evaluation of proposed projects.
5. **SELECTION COMMITTEE:** A committee shall be formed and composed of the following District staff members to make recommendations to the Governing Board for proposed acquisition of lands:
- a. Director of Resource Planning
 - b. Director of Resource Control
 - c. Director of Resource Coordination
 - d. Director of Resource Operations
 - e. Director of Land Management
 - f. Deputy Executive Director
 - g. District Counsel

Each Committee Member may designate a specific staff member to function as the representative on all Committee work.

The Committee shall be responsible for receiving and evaluating suggestions for purchase of land under the Save Our Rivers Program. All proposals to the Governing Board for acquisition should originate from the Committee; all suggestions for acquisition should be submitted to the Committee. The Committee shall meet at a minimum on a quarterly basis to consider all suggestions for acquisition and to prepare a list of proposed acquisition projects. In order for a suggested project to receive approval for consideration on the acquisition list proposed by the Committee, it must be nominated by one Committee Member and have votes of approval by at least four Committee Members. Should any member of the Committee have a direct or indirect, present or contemplated future interest in a parcel proposed for inclusion, or could personally benefit from the acquisition of the parcel, the member shall not participate in discussion, vote or other action in regard to that parcel. The Board may

review any project proposed to the Committee that has not been recommended to the Board by the Committee.

The public meetings of the Selection Committee shall be widely publicized and as often as possible be held in different locations in the District. A report summarizing all comments made at the meetings shall be prepared and distributed to all Committee Members and Board Members.

6. **SUGGESTED ACQUISITION PROJECT FORM:** This form shall be completed and submitted to the District for consideration. Copies of the form are available from the Department of Land Management.
7. **ACQUISITION LIST AND REPORTS:** A proposed acquisition list shall be prepared by the Committee and presented to the Governing Board annually, or more frequently, if considered necessary by the Board or the Committee. The list shall include the estimated costs and the statutory authority for the project. A written report shall be prepared on each project selected for acquisition consideration. Each report shall consider and evaluate in writing:
 - a. the public purpose of the project, including the statutory authority;
 - b. an assessment of the project's ecological value, vulnerability, endangerment, and any other related environmental information;
 - c. an assessment of cost, utilization, ownership, and appraised value estimates;
 - d. the determination whether the project conforms with local and state comprehensive plans or any other adopted governmental plans;
 - e. the merits, both favorable and unfavorable, of each project;
 - f. compatibility with the State Water Use Plan; and
 - g. potential management options.
8. **CONSIDERATION OF APPRAISALS:** If two appraisals are obtained for a parcel of land and the lower of the two appraisals is within twenty percent (20%) of the higher appraisal, then the Executive Director may approve an offer to the land owner of a purchase price between the values found by the appraisals. The approved offer shall be based upon recommendation of the Director of Land Management and SOR Coordinator. The offer shall be contingent upon final approval by the Board.

If the appraisals are more than twenty percent (20%) apart, then the Executive Director, Director of Land Management and SOR Coordinator shall present a recommendation to the Board for approval of an offer, obtain a third appraisal, or such other action as may be appropriate. The Board may direct another appraisal be obtained, or after receipt of information concerning the relative merits of the two appraisals, approve the purchase of the parcel at a value consistent with the use of an informed judgment and in the public interest, or authorize such other action as may be appropriate.
9. **TITLE INFORMATION:** All purchases shall be of a fee simple estate, unless a lesser estate shall be authorized by the Board.

When a fee simple estate is acquired subject to outstanding interests such as a mineral interest, life estate, easement or lease, the purchase price shall be reduced in accordance with the effect the outstanding interests have upon the market value of the lands.

10. **BOARD CONSIDERATION OF THE ACQUISITION LIST:** As a minimum, the Board shall review all proposed projects and current projects on an annual basis. Final acquisition decisions will be made by the Board. The Board shall annually adopt an update of the Five Year Plan and after adoption, the lands approved for purchase shall be incorporated in a report and it will be made available to the public.
11. **PRIORITY OF ACQUISITION:** The Board may designate specific priorities for acquisition of all approved acquisition projects. The following general priorities will be considered in the acquisition process:
 - a. Priority "A" lands associated with the Save Our Everglades Program; Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project lands; Water Conservation Area lands; public water supply recharge areas; and all other lands so designated by the Board.
 - b. Priority "B" lands that otherwise qualify and are subject to early development without other protection, or are especially environmentally sensitive.
 - c. Priority "C" all other lands necessary for acquisition under the Save Our Rivers Program.
12. **EMINENT DOMAIN:** When efforts to acquire lands through negotiation have been unsuccessful, the Board may authorize the use of eminent domain.

Save Our Rivers Program
SUGGESTED ACQUISITION PROJECT

Please return ten copies of this form with ten copies of all referenced attachments to:

Save Our Rivers Coordinator
South Florida Water Management District
Post Office Box V
West Palm Beach, FL 33402

Please complete every question on this form. If necessary, designate N/A where a question is not applicable. Complete applications will receive more prompt and complete attention.

1. Name and Location

Property Name (commonly known as) _____

County (or counties) _____

Within Municipal Boundaries — Yes _____ No _____ If so, specify _____

Within SFWMD Boundaries — Yes _____ No _____ Please attach a location map (8½" by 11") specifying the property location and include a north arrow map drawn to scale if possible); also please provide any additional property maps or aerial photography which may further clarify the suggested project.

2. Size

Estimated Number of Acres _____ Estimated Number of Parcels _____

Estimated Acreage per Parcel _____

3. Ownership Information

Identify the property owner and the contact address and telephone number

4. Survey Information

Are surveys and/or legal descriptions available _____

If so, attach or specify where they may be obtained _____

5. SOR Qualifications Provide detailed information concerning the qualifications of the property for water management, water supply or the conservation and protection of water resources _____

6. Physical Characteristics

Provide a description of the physical characteristics of the property, including the predominant plant and animal life; specify types of trees and percentage of coverage, types of animal life; specify types of trees and percentage of coverage, types of animal life, any rare, or endangered or threatened species, historical or archeological sites, other geologic features, etc. _____

Also provide information on reports prepared by any other agencies on the physical characteristics of the property; if possible, attach a copy of the report. _____

7. General History Influences

Provide a description of general history of the property; include the identification of significant past disturbances, both natural and human; include dates of storm damage, fires, floods, infestations, farming, grazing, mowing, or other site disturbances; also describe any structures, roads, rails, fences, etc. Is land involved in litigation? (If yes, specify.) Is land on other public land acquisition lists? (If yes, specify.) _____

8. Future Impacts

Identify the anticipated future impacts which may have a negative affect on this property and whether the impacts are in the near future or are long range _____

9. Zoning and Land Use Designation

Indicate local zoning and land use designation (from future land use map) on each parcel _____

Identify any other adopted governmental plans that may affect the project; is it compatible with State Water Use Plan? _____

Attach copies of all appropriate maps. _____

10. Value

Identify value as shown on the most recent tax roll _____

Identify appraised value and appraiser's name (if available) _____

11. Attachments

Identify and label each attachment (including photographs):

Attachment A: _____

Attachment B: _____

Attachment C: _____

Attachment D: _____

Attachment E: _____

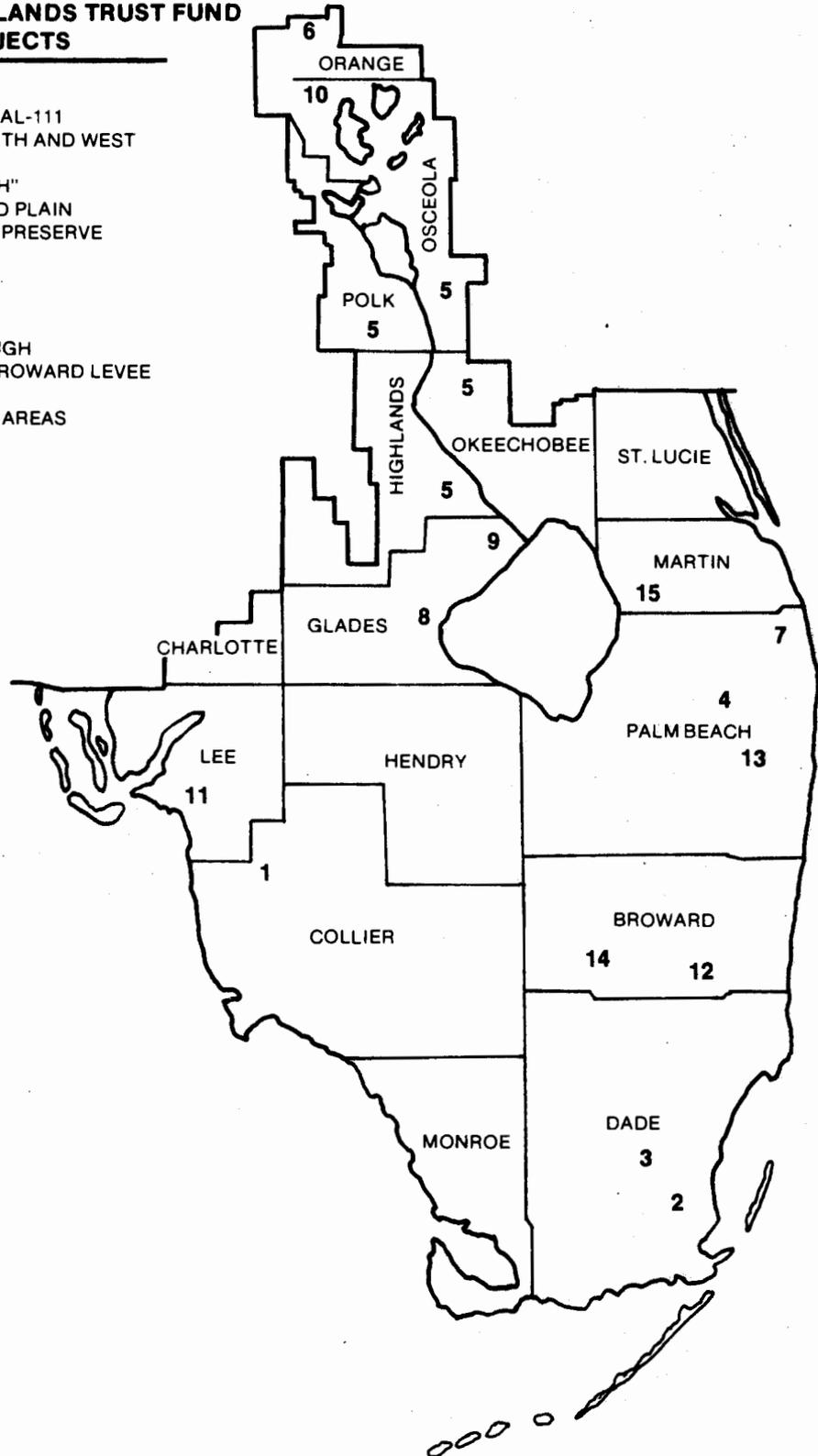
Exhibit "A"
SAVE OUR RIVERS PROJECTS

PROJECT	COUNTIES	LAND ACQUIRED	LAND NEEDED
Bird Rookery Swamp	Collier	0	13,890
East Everglades/ Canal — 111	Dade	38,066	8,765
East Everglades, North and West of Present Ownership	Dade	0	31,000
Friedland Property/ "Old Leon Moss Ranch"	Palm Beach	0	2,700
Kissimmee River Floodplain	Osceola, Polk Okeechobee and Highlands	17,900	33,000
Lake Forest Natural Preserve	Orange	0	430
Loxahatchee River	Martin and Palm Beach	451	1,150
Nicodemus Slough	Glades	0	1,700
Paradise Run	Glades and Okeechobee	0	4,800
Shingle Creek	Orange and Osceola	0	1,000
Six Mile Cypress Slough	Lee	0	900
State Road 27 — Dade Broward Levee	Dade	0	13,000
Strazzulla Tract	Palm Beach	0	1,367
Water Conservation Areas	Broward Dade and Palm Beach	217,429	88,000
White Belt Ranch	Martin and Palm Beach	0	22,000

EXHIBIT "B"

GENERAL LOCATION MAP SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT WATER MANAGEMENT LANDS TRUST FUND SAVE OUR RIVERS PROJECTS

- 1 — BIRD ROOKERY SWAMP
- 2 — EAST EVERGLADES/CANAL-111
- 3 — EAST EVERGLADES/NORTH AND WEST
- 4 — FRIEDLAND PROPERTY/
"OLD LEON MOSS RANCH"
- 5 — KISSIMMEE RIVER FLOOD PLAIN
- 6 — LAKE FOREST NATURAL PRESERVE
- 7 — LOXAHATCHEE RIVER
- 8 — NICODEMUS SLOUGH
- 9 — PARADISE RUN
- 10 — SHINGLE CREEK
- 11 — SIX MILE CYPRESS SLOUGH
- 12 — STATE ROAD 27-DADE BROWARD LEVEE
- 13 — STRAZZULLA TRACT
- 14 — WATER CONSERVATION AREAS
- 15 — WHITE BELT RANCH

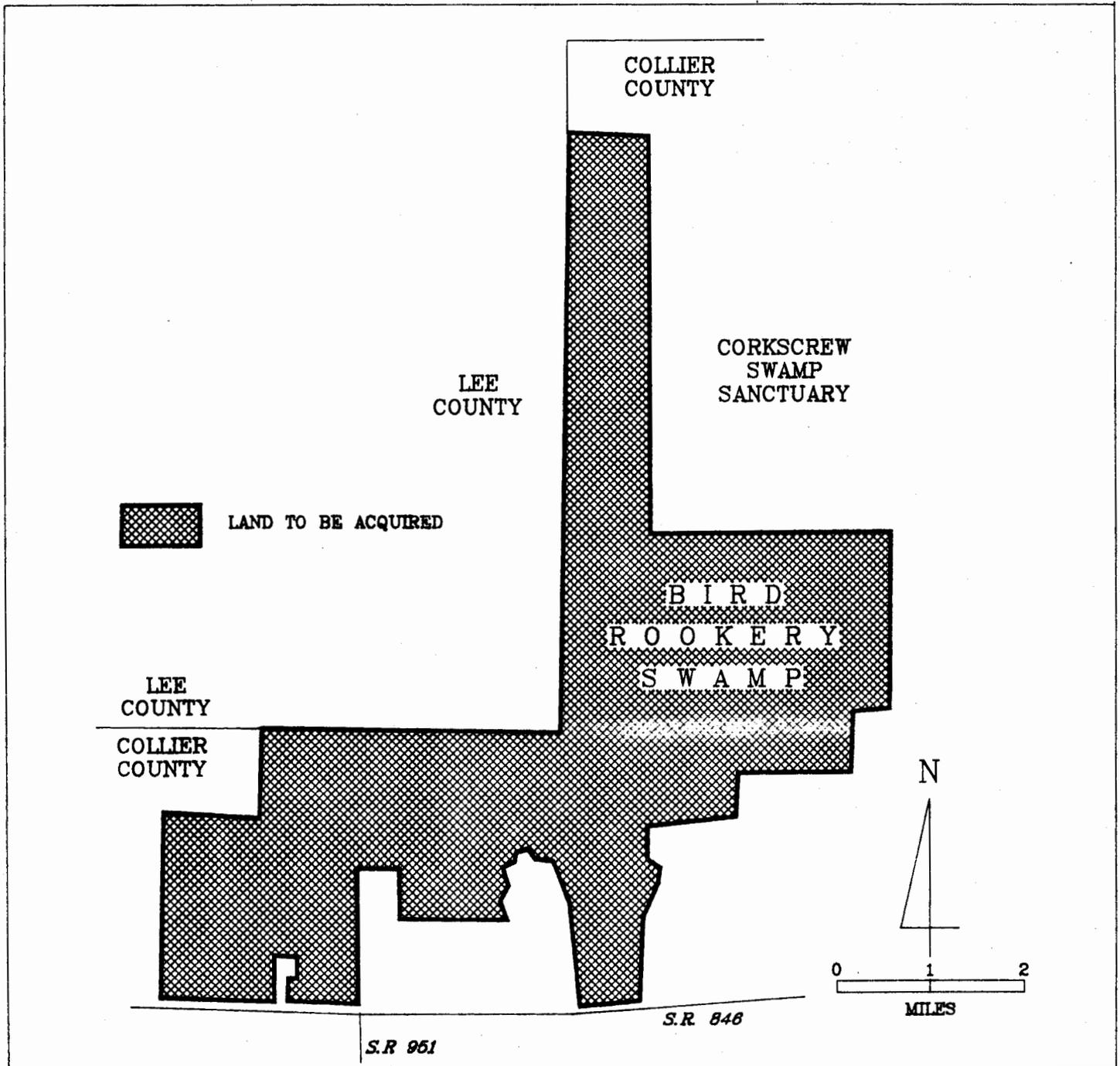
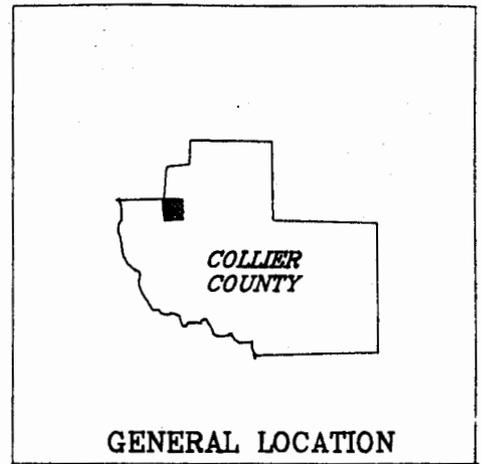


SAVE OUR RIVERS

Description of Proposed Acquisition

1. **Area of Acquisition:** Bird Rookery Swamp
2. **Counties:** Collier
3. **Acres Previously Acquired:** 0
4. **Cost to Date:** 0
5. **Acres to be Acquired:** 13,890
6. **Estimated Additional Cost:** \$13,675,575
7. **Description of Area:** The Bird Rookery Swamp project encompasses all wetlands north and west of SR 846, south and east of the Collier/Lee County line. It is an area of flat topography with elevations ranging from 14 feet NGVD to 17 feet NGVD. Virtually all soils are poorly drained depressional sands supporting cypress and mixed swamp forests.
8. **Consistency with Section 373.59 F.S.:** This project as proposed is designed to protect the natural wetland connection between the historic Corkscrew Marsh and Cocohatchee River drainage basins. Protection of the uninterrupted wetlands is critical to maintaining the quality of future potable water sources.
9. **Reasons for Acquisition:** The wetlands of the watershed retain and purify water resulting in the improved quality of water discharged into the watershed from adjacent areas.
10. **Recreational Potential:** This viable cypress swamp and associated wetland system is located in remote Collier County next to the Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. The sanctuary is managed by the Audobon Society as a nature center. Bird Rookery Swamp could become a valuable addition to the sanctuary. Passive nature appreciation activities facilitated by interpretive aids and boardwalks would provide the residents of the Fort Myers area and travelers with a healthy remnant of Florida's past environments for study and recreation.
11. **Origin of Proposal:** The Conservancy, Inc. and Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary

Bird Rookery Swamp

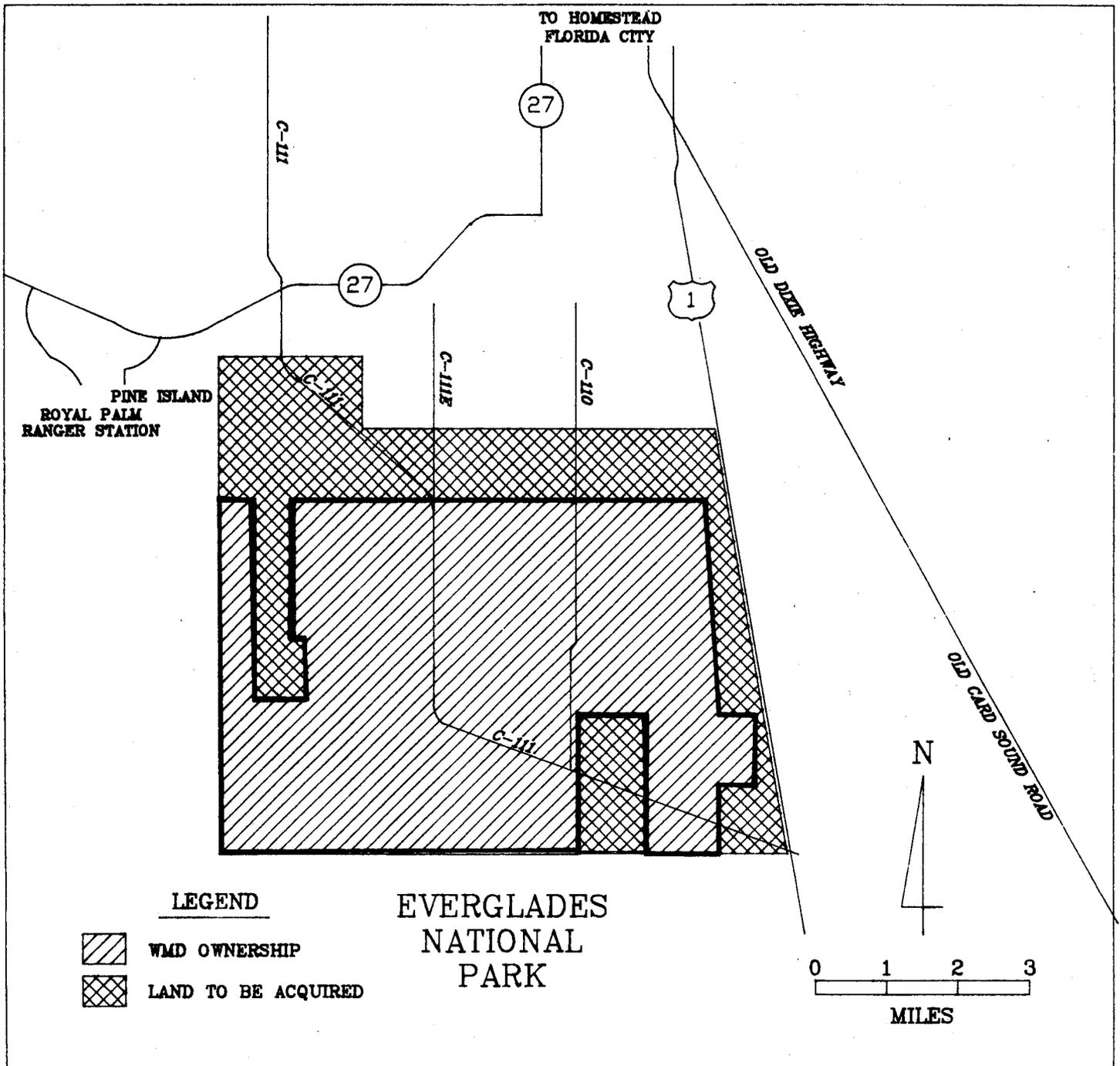
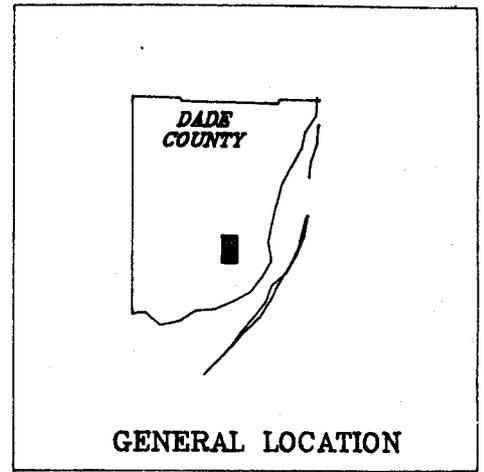


SAVE OUR RIVERS

Description of Proposed Acquisition

1. **Area of Acquisition:** East Everglades/Canal-111
2. **County:** Portions of Dade County
3. **Acres Previously Acquired:** 38,066
4. **Cost to Date:** \$11,568,874
5. **Acres to be Acquired:** 8,765.17
6. **Estimated Additional Cost:** \$4,775,739
7. **Description of Area:** These lands lie adjacent to C-111 and are required to complete the package of lands the District is purchasing in the C-111 area. Future modifications to the C-111 water management scheme will alter flows of water on these properties.
8. **Consistency with Section 373.59 F.S.:** The lands are necessary for proper water management of the fresh water entering ENP and Northeast Florida Bay, and for continuing flood control for agriculture and urban development in the upper reaches of the C-111 watershed. These lands are currently flooded in the rainy season, and form marshes contiguous with our present SOR purchases in the area.
9. **Reasons for Acquisition:** Acquisition would aid the management of water entering the Everglades National Park and provide flood control for agriculture and urban development.
10. **Recreational Potential:** Lands have been used informally for hunting, fishing, target shooting, airboating and off road vehicles. Currently under a cooperative management agreement between the District and the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Will be managed as a wildlife and environmental area. Proposed uses include fishing and boating in C-111, airboating, controlled hunting, and nature appreciation. ORVs and permanent camps will be prohibited.
11. **Origin of Proposal:** The staff of the South Florida Water Management District.

East Everglades/ Canal-111

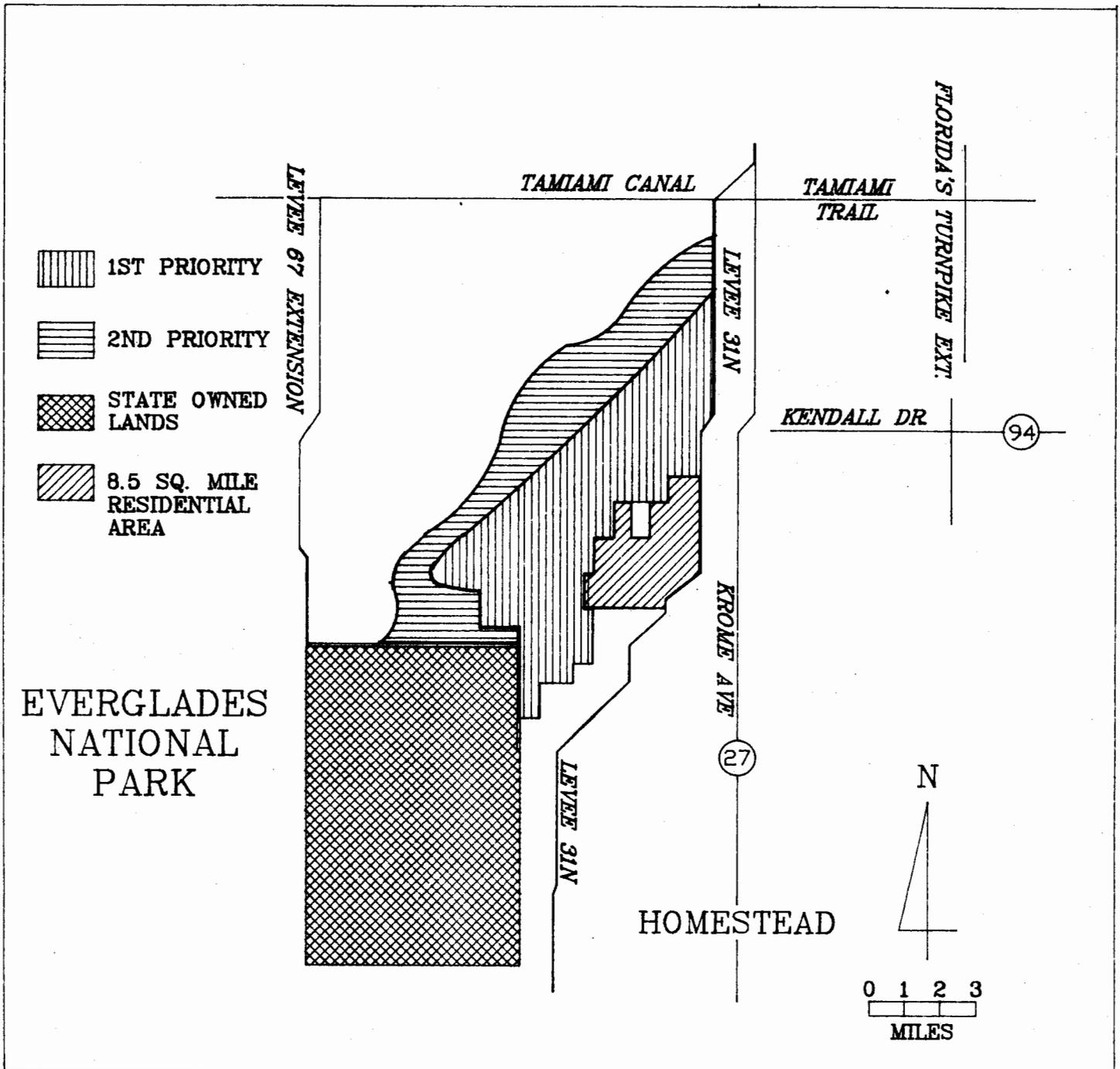
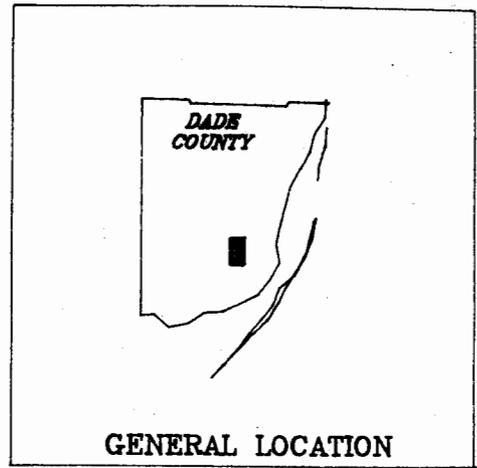


SAVE OUR RIVERS

Description of Proposed Acquisition

1. **Area of Acquisition:** East Everglades North and West of Present Ownership
2. **County:** Portions of Dade County
3. **Acres Previously Acquired:** 0
4. **Cost to Date:** 0
5. **Acres to be Acquired:** 31,000 Acres
6. **Estimated Additional Cost:** \$25,000.00
7. **Description of Area:** These properties lie along the eastern boundary of the Northeast Shark Slough and are comprised of slightly altered Everglades.
8. **Consistency with Section 373.59 F.S.:** They are essential for proper water management of flows to ENP and discharges from WCA3A. The lands under consideration for purchase lie adjacent to a proposed wellfield for potable water, and thus will form an extremely valuable water supply recharge function.
9. **Reasons for Acquisition:** Acquisition would provide natural flood control and water storage while protecting wetlands, water quality and recharge areas.
10. **Recreational Potential:** Because of limited access and the configuration of the acquisition, the area would have limited recreation potential.
11. **Origin of Proposal:** The staff of the South Florida Water Management District.

East Everglades North and West of Present Ownership

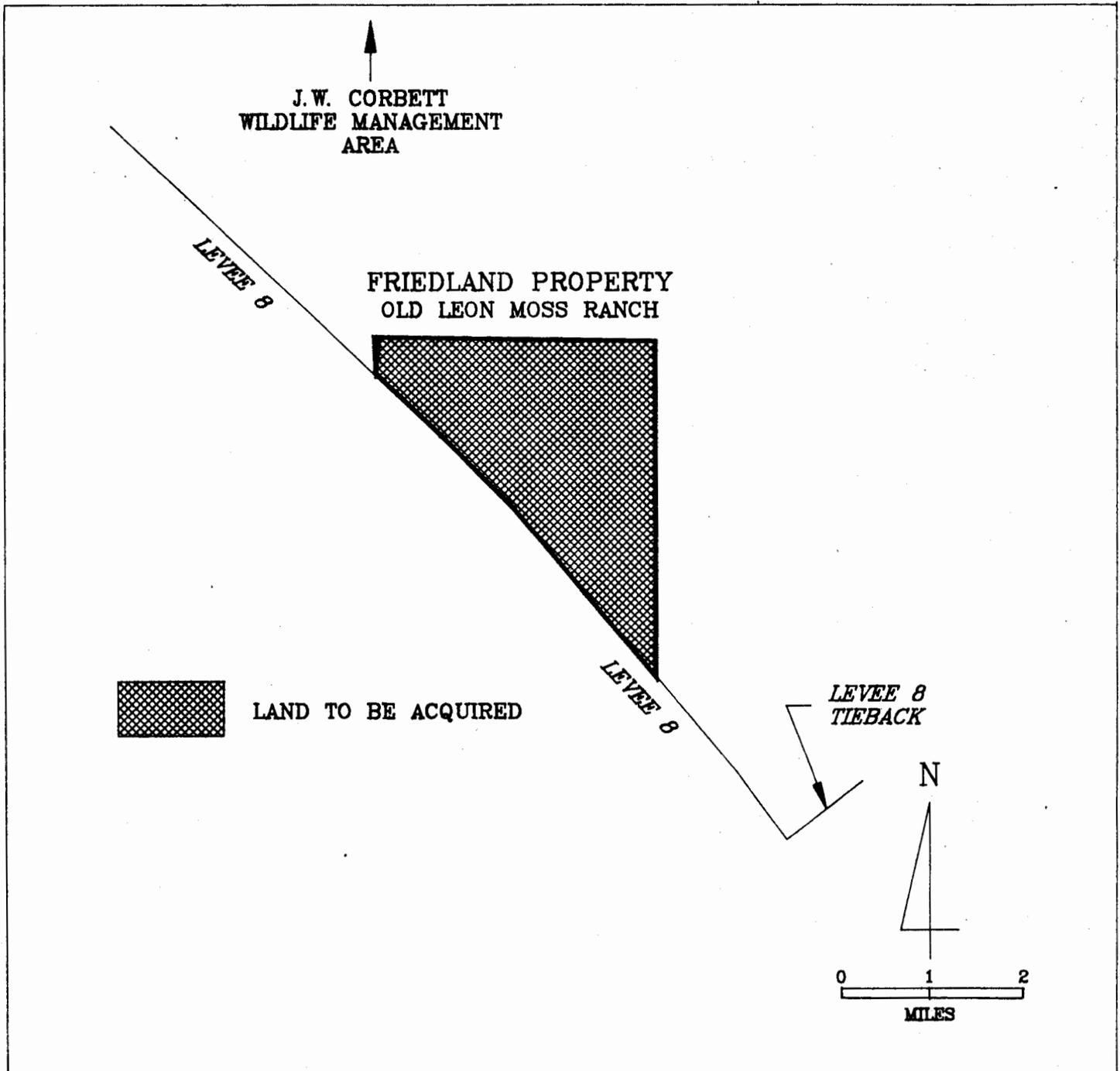
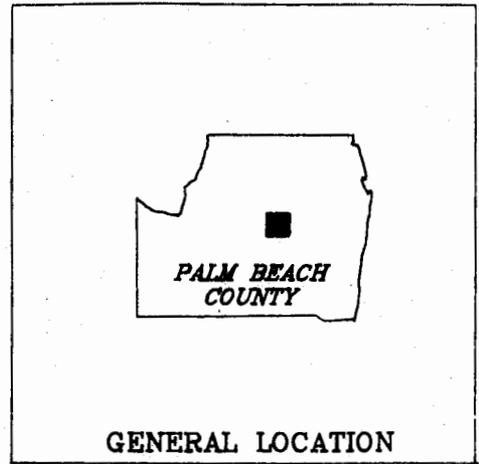


SAVE OUR RIVERS

Description of Proposed Acquisition

1. **Area of Acquisition:** Friedland Property/"Old Leon Moss Ranch"
2. **Counties:** Palm Beach
3. **Acres Previously Acquired:** 0
4. **Cost to Date:** 0
5. **Acres to be Acquired:** 2,700
6. **Estimated Additional Cost:** \$3,500,000
7. **Description of Area:** This parcel is triangular in shape and is bounded along the north by the Corbett Wildlife Management Area, along the southwest by L-8 and along the east by citrus groves. The property lies along a line of transition between more pine dominated uplands and open marshes of the historic Everglades.
8. **Consistency with Section 373.59 F.S.:** This tract has been significantly impacted by drainage, to reduce the hydroperiod for agricultural production. This land could be managed to provide unique opportunities for water supply, conservation and protection of water resources.
9. **Reasons for Acquisition:** Although impacted by previous drainage activities, this project offers the opportunity to protect and restore a significant area of open space and recreational land as well as protect water resources and supply.
10. **Recreational Potential:** Moss Ranch is 2,700 acres of former Everglades marsh, pine flatwoods and cypress swamp. It is similar to the 58,000 acre J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area located immediately north. The Corbett area, managed by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, is an extremely popular hunting, fishing and camping area for South Florida sportsmen. Moss Ranch would be an attractive addition to the Corbett management unit and would require little increase in the scope of the management program already in place. The property is crossed by old, elevated tram roads that could serve as pedestrian access avenues that would eliminate the need for off road vehicle use by the general public to access the parcel. Moss Ranch is well suited for low impact hunting, camping and nature observation activities.
11. **Origin of Proposal:** Property owner.

Friedland Property/ "Old Leon Moss Ranch"

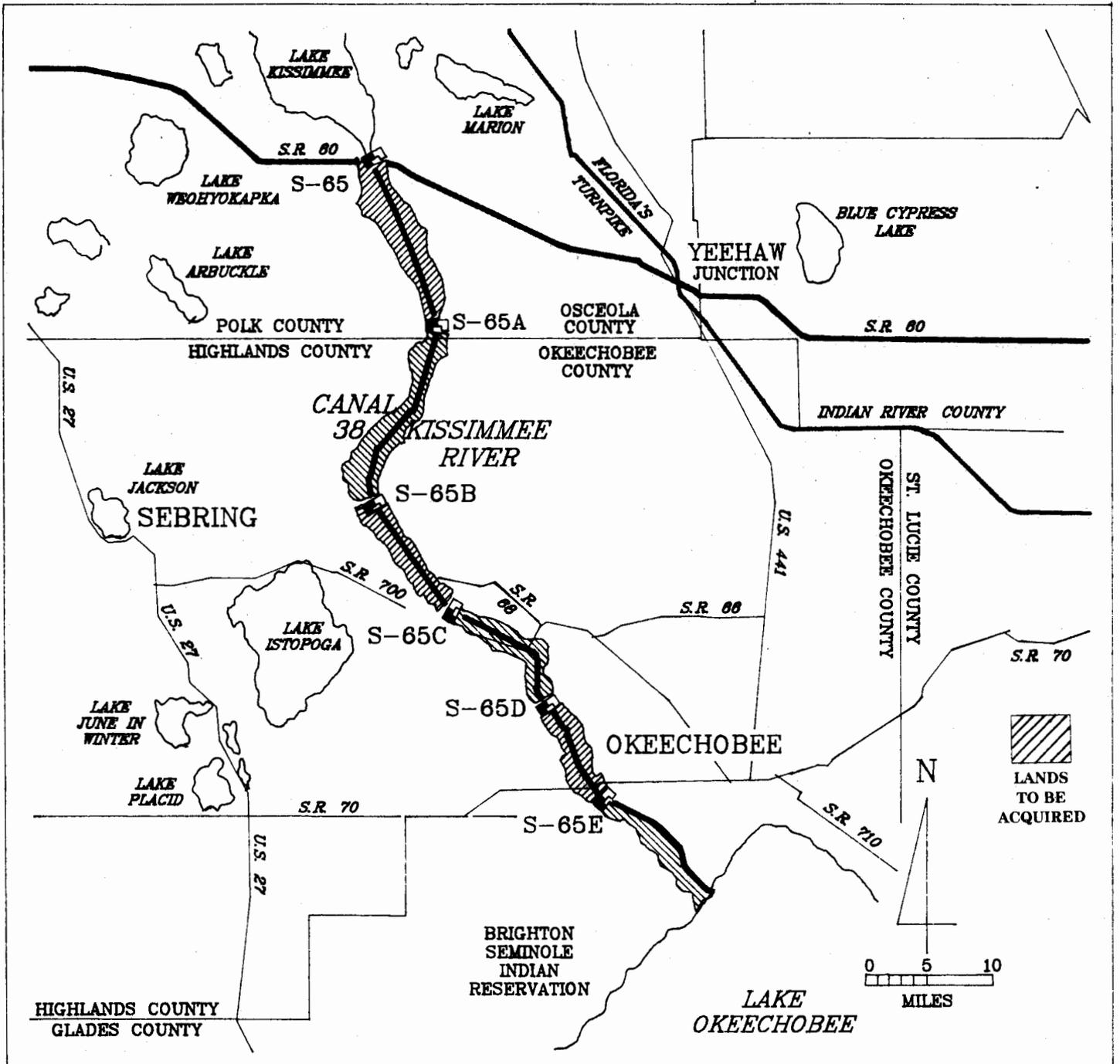
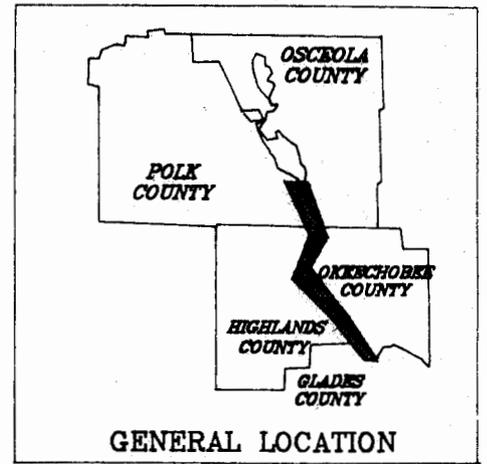


SAVE OUR RIVERS

Description of Proposed Acquisition

1. **Area of Acquisition:** Kissimmee River Floodplain
2. **Counties:** Osceola, Polk, Okeechobee and Highlands Counties
3. **Acres Previously Acquired:** 8,963
4. **Cost to Date:** \$7,868,752
5. **Acres to be Acquired:** 33,000
6. **Estimated Additional Cost:** \$50,000,000
7. **Description of Area:** Approximately 33,000 acres in Osceola, Polk, Okeechobee and Highlands counties. This area represents the historic floodplain of the Kissimmee River.
8. **Consistency with Section 373.59F.S.:** This land is necessary for the restoration program for the Kissimmee River under the Governor's Save Our Everglades Program. It is essential for the proper management of water in the Kissimmee Valley.
9. **Reasons for Acquisition:** It accomplishes water supply and storage objectives by allowing greater flexibility of water level control. The property would allow for the restoration of the natural values of the Kissimmee River and hence meet the objectives of conservation and protection of the water resources.
10. **Recreational Potential:** Existing public recreational activities along the Kissimmee River consist primarily of power boating and fishing in Canal 38 and those oxbows of the river that were not cut off as a result of project construction. Controlled hunting is allowed along the river flood plain within the Avon Park Bombing Range and there are opportunities for bank fishing and picnicking at several access sites along the river. Improvement of flows into the river oxbows together with the restoration of a more natural hydroperiod in the adjacent flood plains will increase the opportunities for fishing, canoeing, nature observation and waterfowl hunting. The potential for additional recreational opportunities on upland areas that may be purchased as a requirement for specific land transactions will also be evaluated. Currently, several sections of the Florida Trail are located along the Kissimmee River, and an attempt is being made by the Florida Trail Association to complete the missing links. Suitable sections of the trail may be incorporated as part of the Florida National Scenic Trail.
11. **Origin of Proposal:** The staff of the South Florida Water Management District.

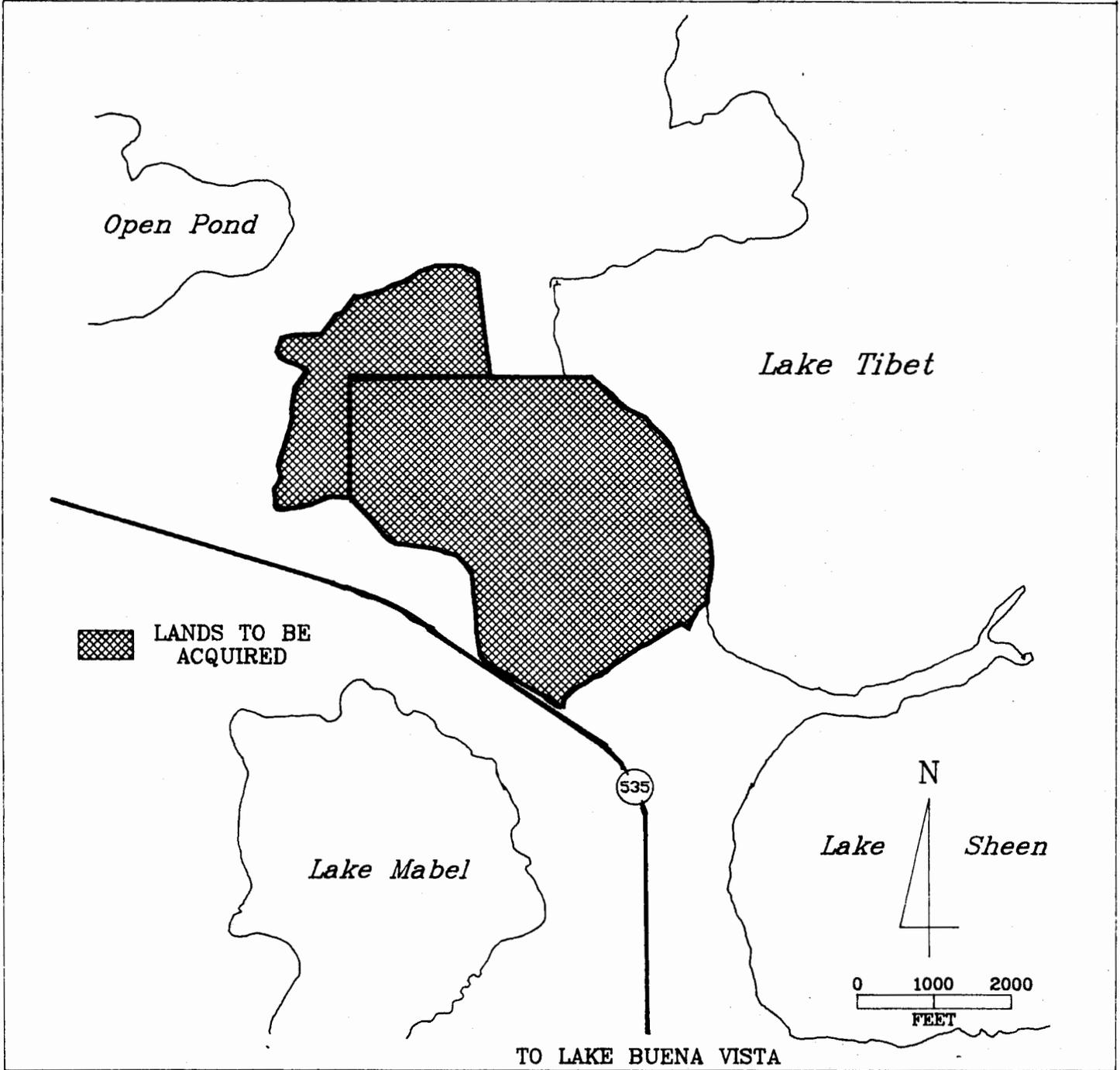
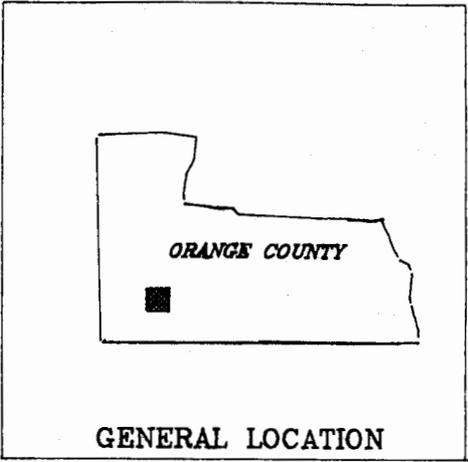
Kissimmee River Floodplain



SAVE OUR RIVERS
Description of Proposed Acquisition

1. **Area of Acquisition:** Lake Forest Natural Preserve
2. **County:** Orange
3. **Acres Previously Acquired:** 0
4. **Cost to Date:** 0
5. **Acres to be Acquired:** 430
6. **Estimated Additional Cost:** \$4,000,000
7. **Description of Area:** A large part of the Lake Forest Preserve property is within the 100 year floodplain elevation. Review of topographic information indicates that of the 430 acres encompassed by the preserve, over 70 percent or in excess of 300 acres are at or below the 102' NGVD contour. Therefore, this natural system and the flood moderating aspects of its floodplain contribute to the passive water management function of the site. Lake Tibet-Butler and the other lakes in the Butler Chain of Lakes are classified as Outstanding Florida Waters, a classification which allows no degradation of existing water quality. Preservation of this tract would contribute to the protection of the water quality in Lake Tibet-Butler, and the downstream lakes in the Butler Chain. The property plays a role in providing water quality benefits by filtering nutrients and sediment runoff.
8. **Consistency with Section 373.59 F.S.:** This project is consistent with 373.59 F.S., as acquiring this land would improve, conserve and protect water supply and water resources.
9. **Reasons for Acquisition:** The Forest Preserve tract contains approximately 300 acres of wetlands, part of which is a freshwater bog that represents a significant association unique to and scarce within Central Florida. The potential for the destruction or alteration of the resources on this site is high. The owners have been trying to develop the property for residential housing. Plans call for one acre and one-half acre lots in the scrub and mesic flatwoods areas. The remaining areas (Basin Marsh, Basin Swamp and Bog) would be open space. Some type of vehicular access across the basin swamp area would have to be provided to the interior upland areas (either a bridge or causeway). The proposed development appears to be consistent with zoning and the present land use plan.
10. **Recreational Potential:** This area is a unique semi-wilderness in the rapidly expanding Orlando area. Will be managed by Orange County as a natural area with limited facilities for access, interpretation and nature observation. Fishing and boating permitted along the shore line.
11. **Origin of Proposal:** The staff of the South Florida Water Management District.

Lake Forest Natural Preserve

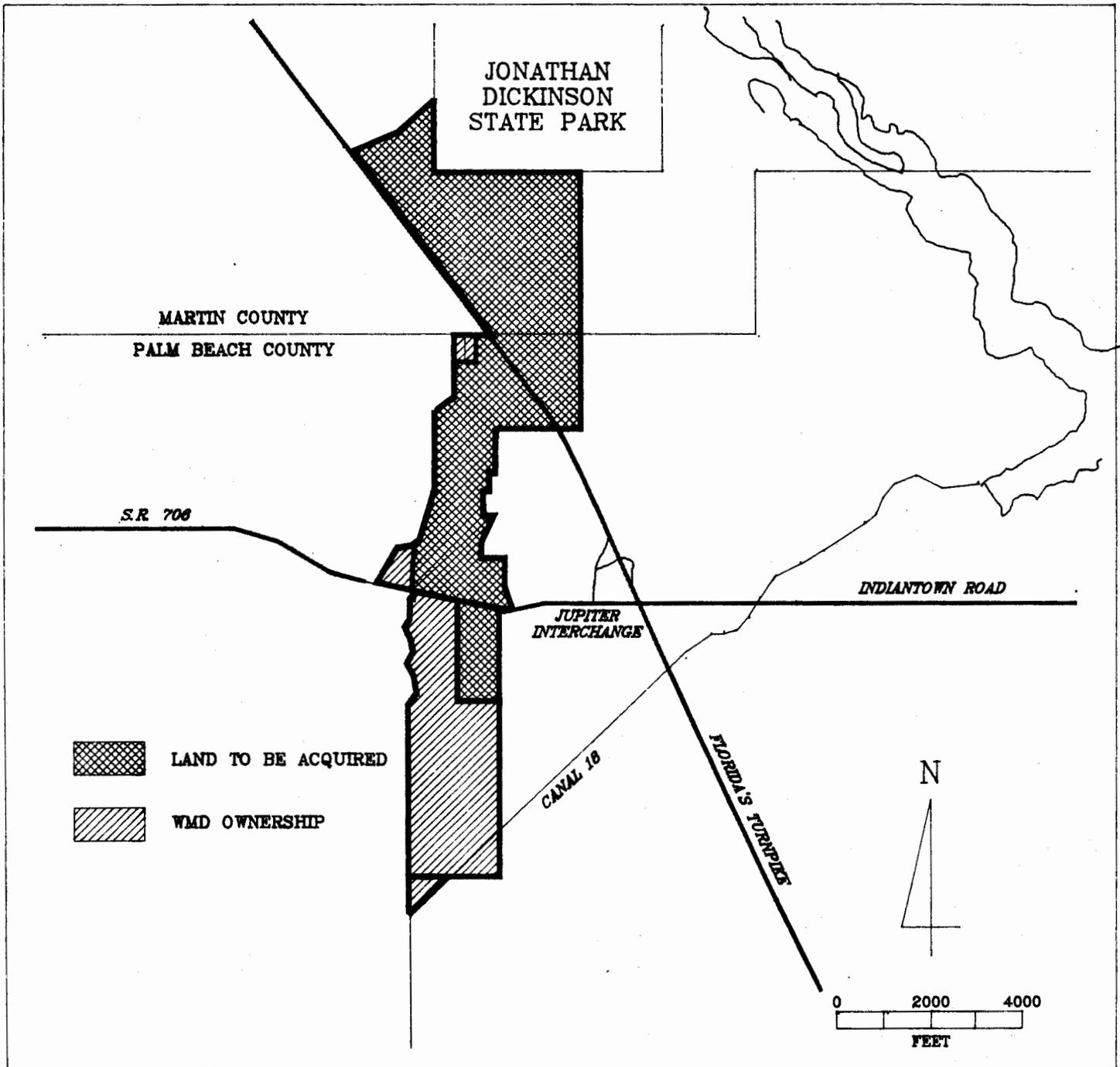
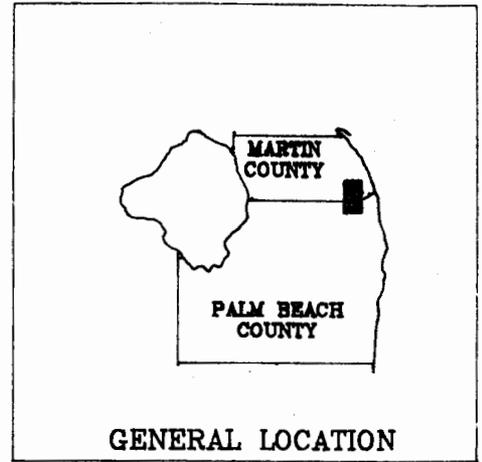


SAVE OUR RIVERS

Description of Proposed Acquisition

1. **Area of Acquisition:** Loxahatchee River
2. **Counties:** Palm Beach and Martin
3. **Acres Previously Acquired:** 451
4. **Cost to Date:** \$6,466,110
5. **Acres to be Acquired:** 1,150 Acres
6. **Estimated Additional Cost:** \$8,600,000
7. **Description of Area:** Lands proposed for acquisition lie adjacent to and include the historic floodplain of the Loxahatchee River Northwest Fork. Acquisition of these lands are important for the continued protection of a unique watershed that includes a recently designated National Wild and Scenic River and State Aquatic Preserve.
8. **Consistency with Section 373.59 F.S.:** Land acquisition will facilitate long range management objective which include protection and preservation of existing water resources.
9. **Reasons for Acquisition:** These properties include the complete forested floodplain and portions of major tributaries flowing into the northwest fork. These tributaries and floodplains are vital for surface water management and contribute to baseflow of the river. In addition, purchase will provide a vital means of protecting water quantity and quality flowing into the river, as well as protect quality and quantity of local groundwater supplies. Acquisition will further protect water resources by providing a buffer between the river corridor and impacts of surrounding land use change.
10. **Recreational Potential:** The Loxahatchee River corridor is an excellent canoe trail that can be traveled by even the most inexperienced canoeist. It has been designated as a National Wild and Scenic River. Associated activities include picnicking, boating, fishing, nature appreciation and hiking. It is to be managed by the Florida Department of Natural Resources in conjunction with Jonathan Dickinson State Park.
11. **Origin of Proposal:** The staff of the South Florida Water Management District.

Loxahatchee River

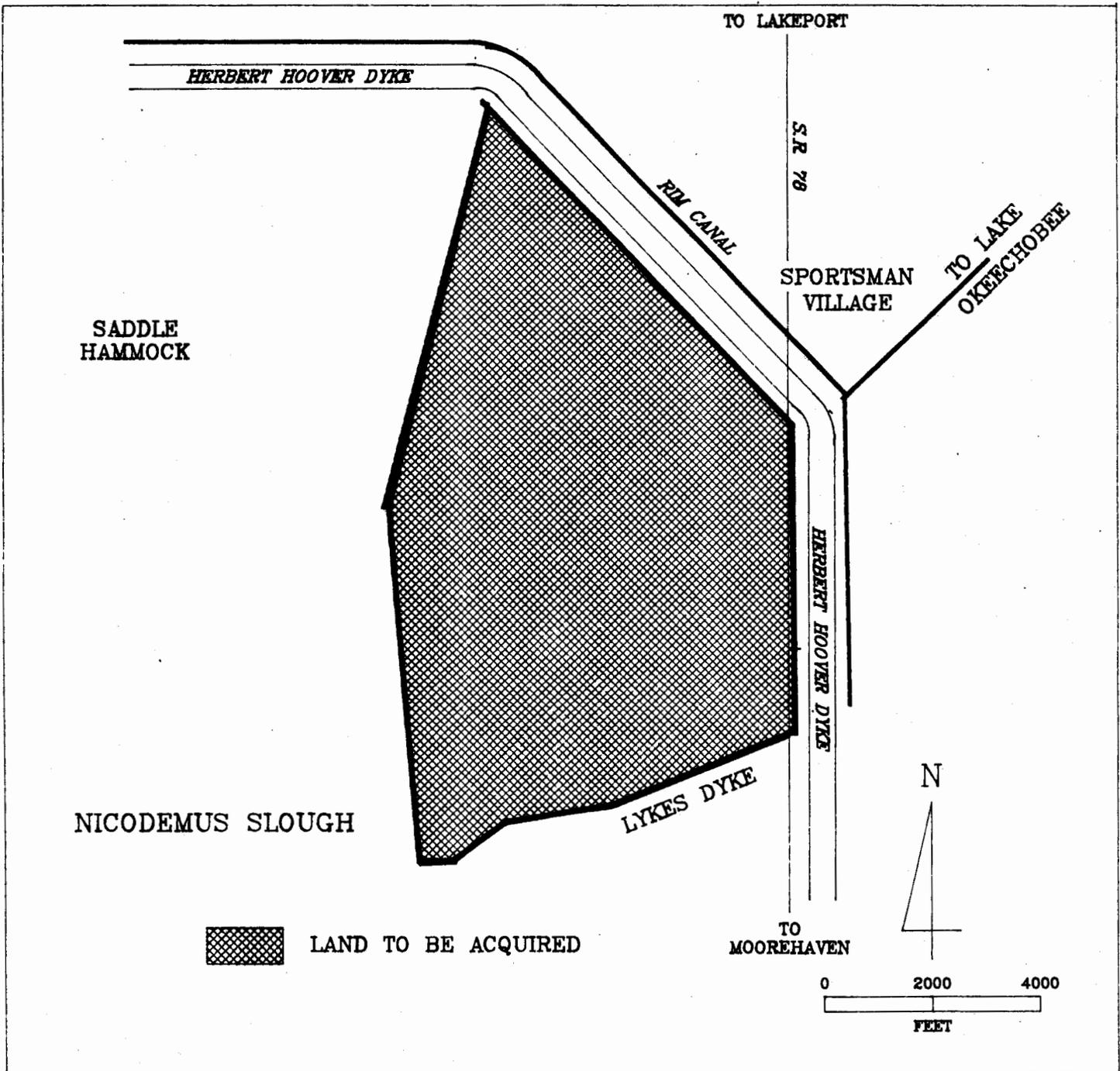
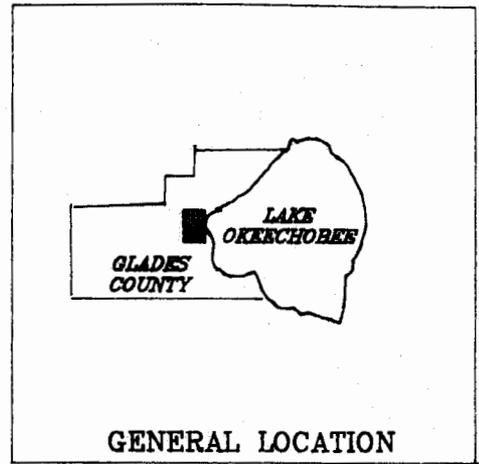


SAVE OUR RIVERS

Description of Proposed Acquisition

1. **Area of Acquisition:** Nicodemus Slough
2. **County:** Glades
3. **Acres Previously Acquired:** 0
4. **Cost to Date:** 0
5. **Acres to be Acquired:** 1,750 Acres
6. **Estimated Additional Cost:** \$2,000,000
7. **Description of Area:** Nicodemus Slough is located on the west shore of Lake Okeechobee in Glades County.
8. **Consistency with Section 373.59 F.S.:** This is one of the two remaining areas requiring protection from raising of the Lake Okeechobee regulation schedule to 15.5'-17.5' NGVD for increased water supply storage. It is important for water management purposes since it is an integral component of the overall flood protection plan.
9. **Reasons for Acquisition:** Acquisition of the area provides a good opportunity for conservation and protection of water resources since the area can be managed for environmental, water quality and recreational benefits. It is also required because the change in Lake Okeechobee Regulation schedule, causes this area to flood.
10. **Recreational Potential:** The small size of the proposed acquisition area will limit its use for public recreational activities. There is some potential for waterfowl hunting and nature appreciation, depending upon the hydroperiod that is ultimately established.
11. **Origin of Proposal:** The staff of the South Florida Water Management District.

Nicodemus Slough

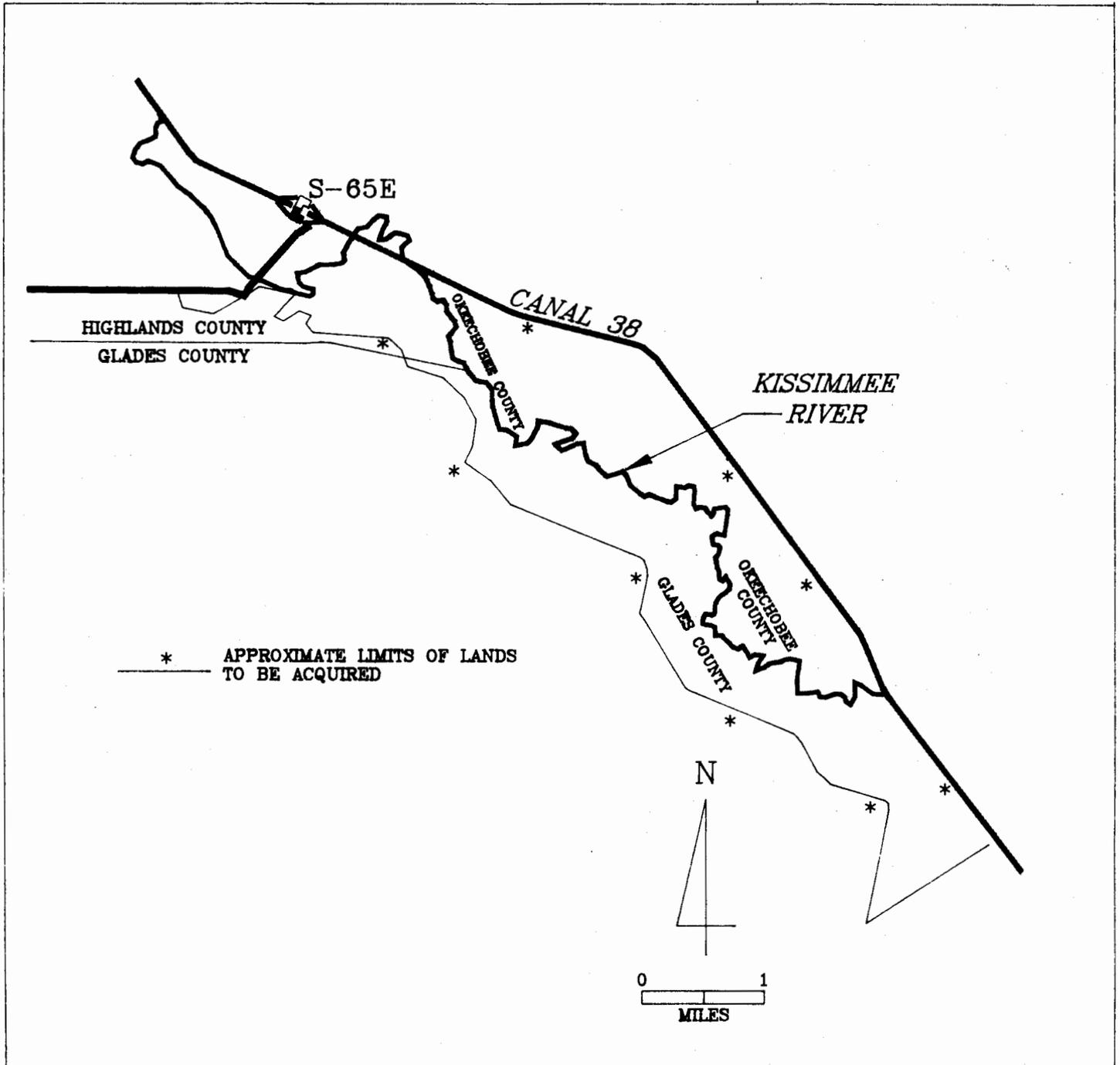
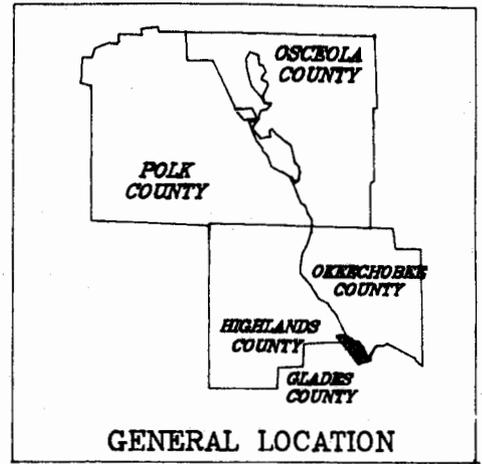


SAVE OUR RIVERS

Description of Proposed Acquisition

1. **Area of Acquisition:** Paradise Run
2. **Counties:** Portions of Okeechobee and Glades Counties
3. **Acres Previously Acquired:** 0
4. **Cost to Date:** 0
5. **Acres to be Acquired:** 4,800
6. **Estimated Additional Cost:** \$4,800,000
7. **Description of Area:** This is 4,800 acres of original Kissimmee River flood plain which has been drained.
8. **Consistency with Section 373.59 F.S.:** This property is part of the concept of restoration of the Kissimmee River and necessary for restoration and management of the Kissimmee River as a whole.
9. **Reasons for Acquisition:** Water quality benefits would accrue from establishment of a marsh flow way here.
10. **Recreational Potential:** Restoration of hydroperiod and flows into cutoff portions of the Kissimmee River and adjacent flood plain would enhance opportunities for canoeing, fishing and nature appreciation. Potential waterfowl hunting area under management of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.
11. **Origin of Proposal:** The staff of the South Florida Water Management District.

Paradise Run

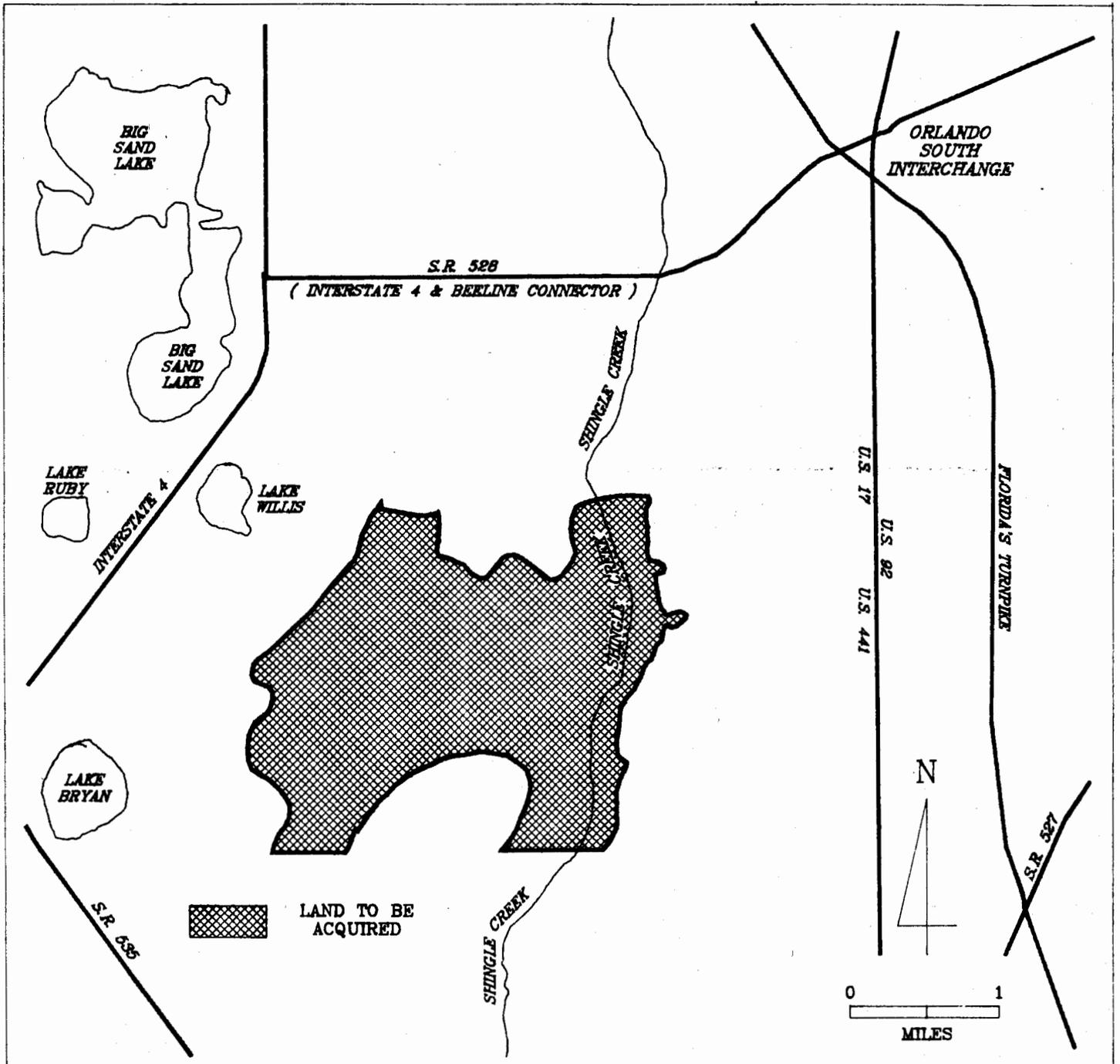
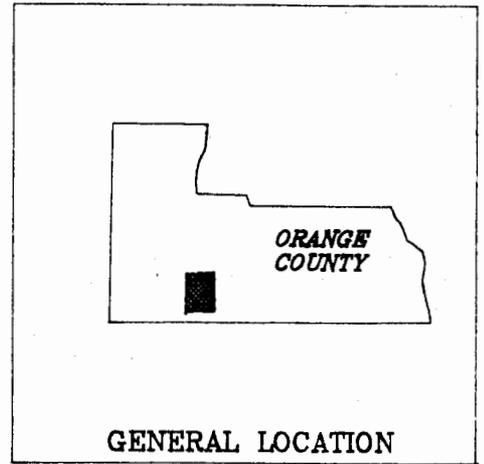


SAVE OUR RIVERS

Description of Proposed Acquisition

1. **Area of Acquisition:** Shingle Creek
2. **Counties:** Orange and Osceola Counties
3. **Acres Previously Acquired:** 0
4. **Cost to Date:** 0
5. **Acres to be Acquired:** 1,000
6. **Estimated Additional Cost:** \$1,500,000
7. **Description of Area:** Shingle Creek, in Orange and Osceola Counties, lies within the Kissimmee River/ Lake Okeechobee drainage basin.
8. **Consistency with Section 373.59 F.S.:** The land included in this acquisition is for protection of water resources since the historic water flow to the swamp would be reestablished to enhance environmental conditions and provide for some water quality improvement of Shingle Creek runoff.
9. **Reasons for Acquisition:** This cypress wetland is important for acquisition for water management purposes since it acts as a detention area during flood conditions.
10. **Recreational Potential:** Shingle Creek and the proposed impoundment will provide opportunities for waterfowl hunting and fishing. The creek is an interesting small boat trip and suitable for canoeing.
11. **Origin of Proposal:** The staff of the South Florida Water Management District.

Shingle Creek

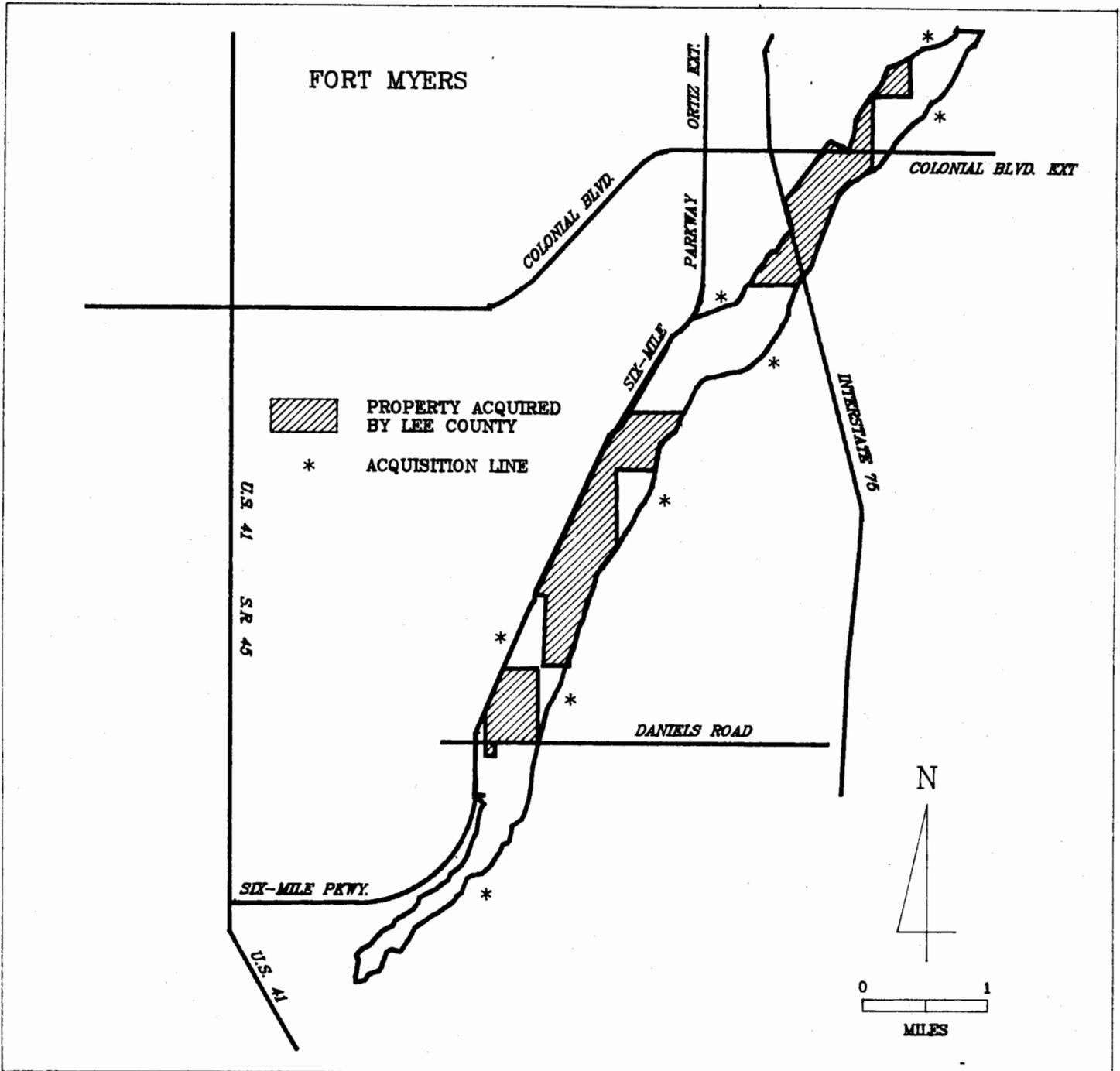
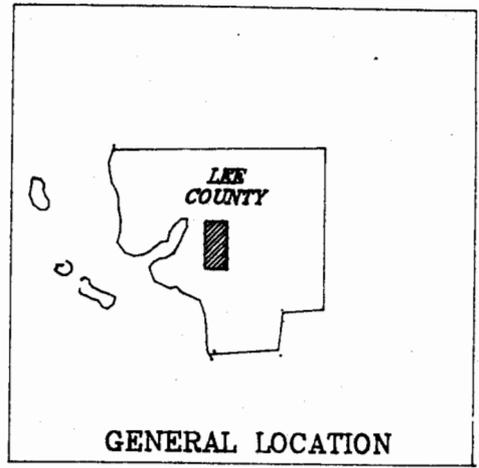


SAVE OUR RIVERS

Description of Proposed Acquisition

1. **Area of Acquisition:** Six Mile Cypress Slough
2. **County:** Lee
3. **Acres Previously Acquired:** 0
4. **Cost to Date:** 0
5. **Acres to be Acquired:** 900
6. **Estimated Additional Cost:** \$2,000,000
7. **Description of Area:** 900 acres of Cypress Slough in Lee County
8. **Consistency with Section 373.59 F.S.:** This project, is consistant with 373.59 F.S. because it will help with water management, and conservation and protection of water resources. This acquisition will facilitate long range management objectives of water resources.
9. **Reasons for Acquisition:** Acquisition would provide natural flood control and water storage while protecting wetlands, water quality and recharge areas.
10. **Recreational Potential:** This is a natural area in close proximity to the heavily populated Fort Myers area. It is to be managed by Lee County as a nature appreciation area with trails, boardwalks, wildlife observation structures and related interpretive facilities. It has potential picnicking and fishing opportunities in conjunction with existing borrow pits.
11. **Origin of Proposal:** The staff of the South Florida Water Management District.

Six Mile Cypress Slough

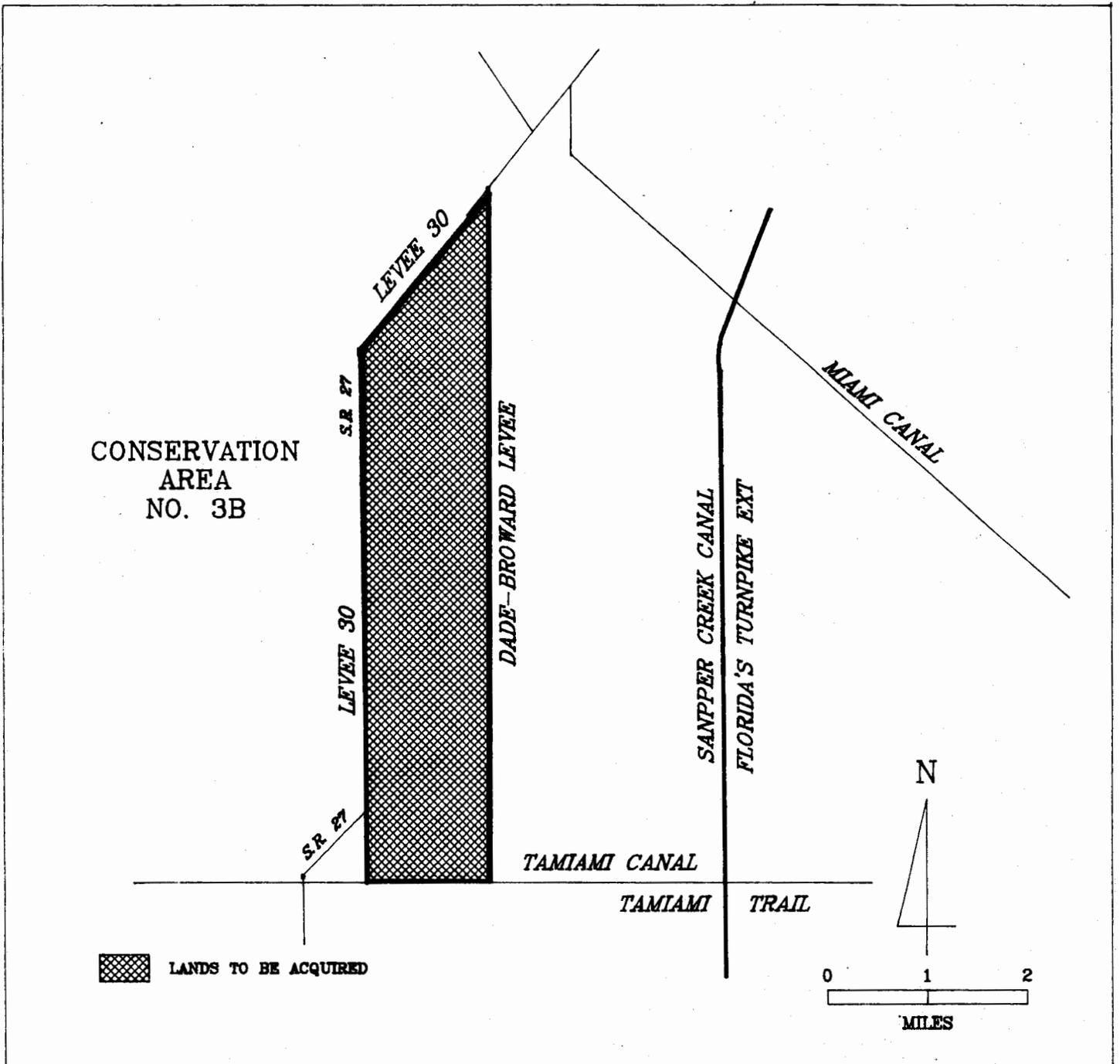
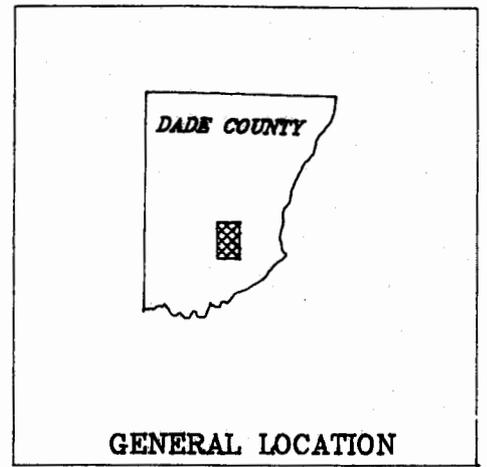


SAVE OUR RIVERS

Description of Proposed Acquisition

1. **Area of Acquisition:** State Road 27 — Dade Broward Levee
2. **County:** Dade
3. **Acres Previously Acquired:** 0
4. **Cost to Date:** 0
5. **Acres to be Acquired:** 13,000
6. **Estimated Additional Cost:** \$13,000,000
7. **Description of Area:** Approximately 13,000 acres in Dade County. This property is adjacent to Water Conservation Area 3B.
8. **Consistency with Section 373.59 F.S.:** This land is a predominant wetland community whose preservation would constitute conservation and protection of the Water Resources of the area.
9. **Reasons for Acquisition:** Acquisition of this property would allow for improved water management of the Conservation Area water levels. Water supply benefits would accrue due to the ability to store more water in Area 3B and the protection of Dade County's Northwest Wellfield which is directly east of the property.
10. **Recreational Potential:** This expanse is basically a water recharge area. The area is suitable only for nature appreciation activities and very limited hunting opportunities.
11. **Origin of Proposal:** The staff of the South Florida Water Management District.

State Road 27 — Dade Broward Levee

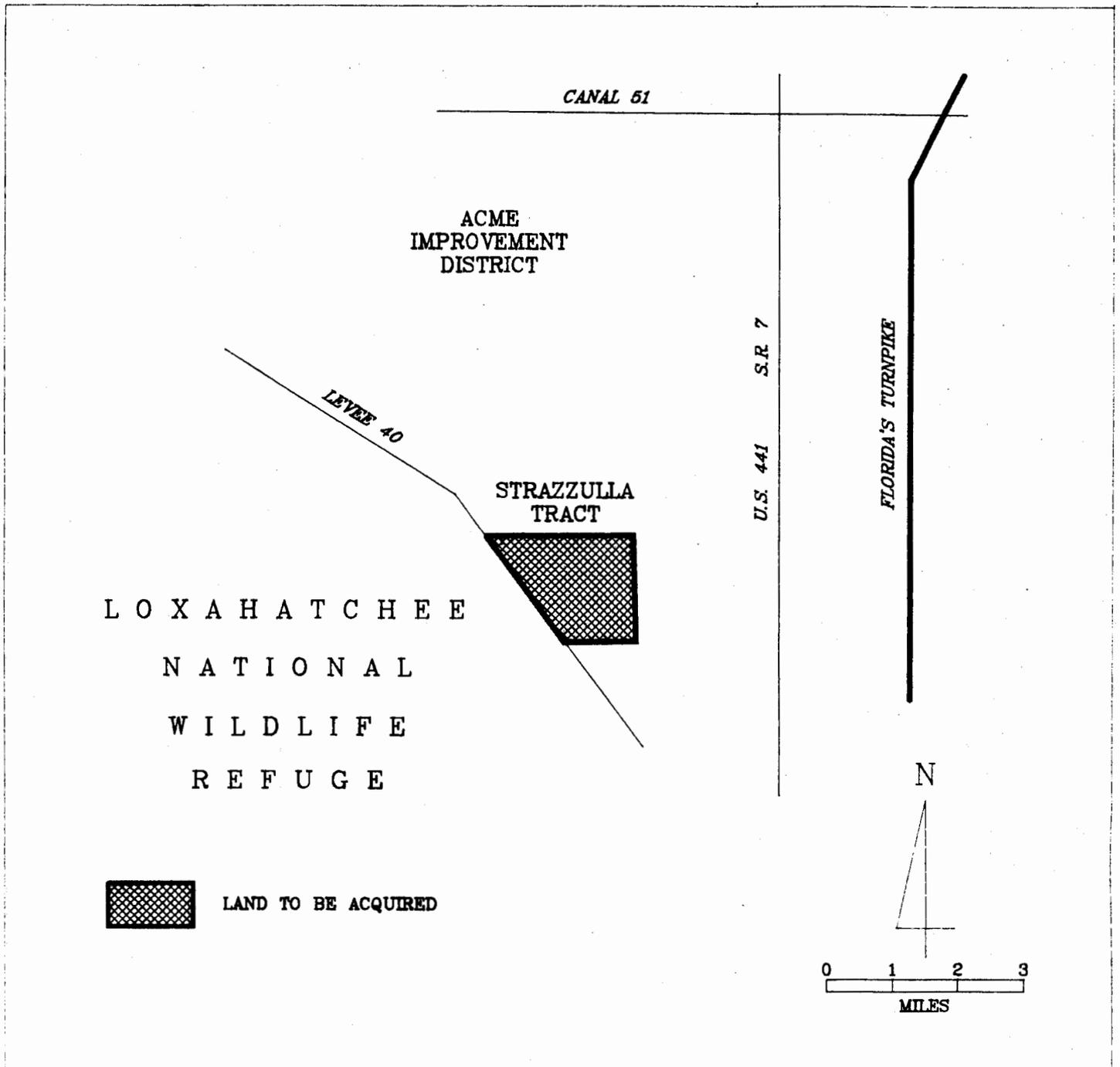
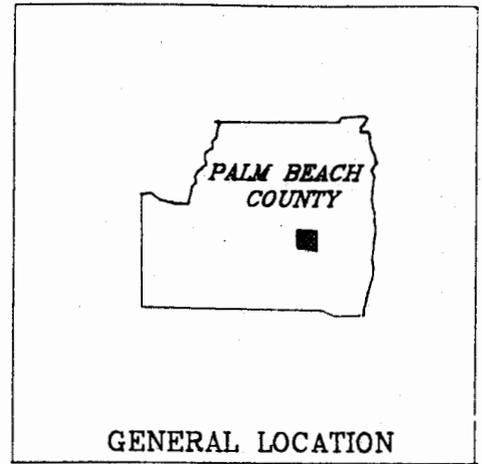


SAVE OUR RIVERS

Description of Proposed Acquisition

1. **Area of Acquisition:** Strazzulla Tract
2. **Counties:** Palm Beach
3. **Acres Previously Acquired:** 0
4. **Cost to Date:** 0
5. **Acres to be Acquired:** 1,367
6. **Estimated Additional Cost:** \$3,500,000.
7. **Description of Area:** The entire tract is fresh water wetland habitat. The western half of the property is emergent marshlands. The marshes which lie between L-40 and the forested wetlands form a mosaic pattern of typical wet prairies and well defined strands of sawgrass.
8. **Consistency with Section 373.59 F.S.:** Establishment as a buffer to Water Conservation Area No. 1, this project will conserve water supplies, eliminate drainage requirements and protect water resources. It is a recharge area for groundwater resources.
9. **Reasons for Acquisition:** Existing or planned residential developments about the tract on the north, east and southeast. This parcel could be a very valuable adjunct to Water Conservation Area No. 1.
10. **Recreational Potential:** The Strazzulla property is adjacent to the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge that is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Wildlife value associated with the preservation of the Strazzulla Tract could provide the resource for passive types of non-consumptive recreation. Addition of the Strazzulla property to the Loxahatchee Refuge could be accomplished by modification of the existing Cooperative and License Agreement between the District and the Refuge. Several minor boundary changes are currently being considered to improve manageability of the refuge. Loxahatchee currently has a boardwalk and nature center. The proposed Strazzulla purchase could supply additional land for expansion of this program.
11. **Origin of Proposal:** Property owner.

Strazzulla Tract

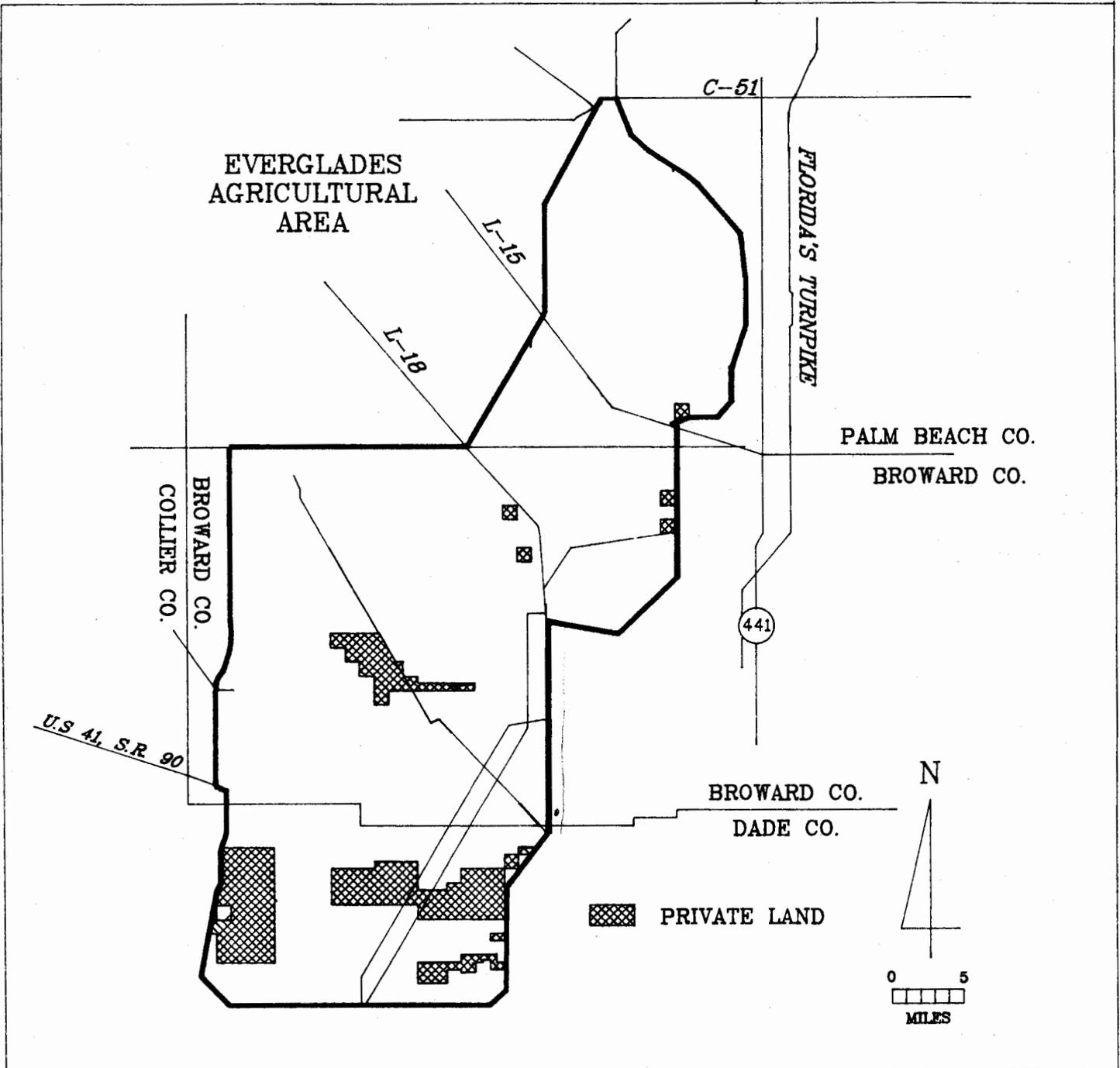
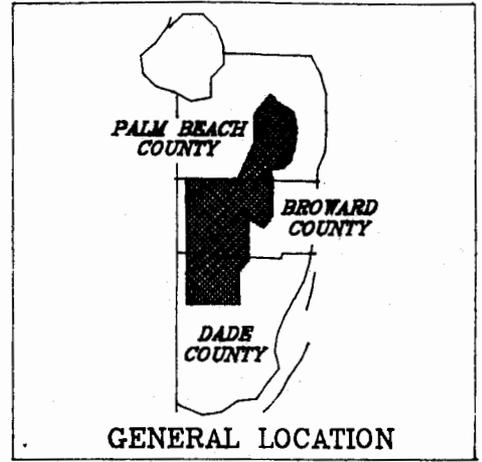


SAVE OUR RIVERS

Description of Proposed Acquisition

1. **Area of Acquisition:** Water Conservation Areas
2. **Counties:** Portions of Dade, Broward & Palm Beach Counties
3. **Acres Previously Acquired:** 217,429
4. **Cost to Date:** \$20,000,000
5. **Acres to be Acquired:** 88,000 acres in fee title and 150,000 acres of mineral rights
6. **Estimated Additional Cost:** \$18,350,000
7. **Description of Area:** The three Water Conservation Areas comprise the bulk of the remaining Everglades marsh, and 50% of the original pre-drainage Everglades. They are wilderness havens for fish and wildlife, and Water Conservation Area 1 is also known as the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge.
8. **Consistency with Section 373.59 F.S.:** These Water Conservation Areas are an integral part of the flood control and water supply management activities of the South Florida Water Management District. Flood waters from agricultural and urban areas are pumped into the WCA's for storage, and water is released from the WCA's to the lower east coast for direct water supply purposes and to prevent salt water intrusion at the coastal structures. Much of the WCA system overlies the Biscayne Aquifer, and seepage from the WCA's aids in replenishment of the aquifer. The WCA's are also used to directly add water into Everglades National Park, and are extremely important to the overall conservation and protection of South Florida's water resource.
9. **Reasons for Acquisition:** Acquisition would provide natural flood control and water storage while aiding the replenishment of the Biscayne Aquifer.
10. **Recreational Potential:** These areas have historically provided fishing, hunting, nature appreciation and boating opportunities under management of the Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These recreational opportunities will continue.
11. **Origin of Proposal:** The staff of the South Florida Water Management District.

Water Conservation Areas



SAVE OUR RIVERS

Description of Proposed Acquisition

1. **Area of Acquisition:** White Belt Ranch
2. **Counties:** Palm Beach and Martin
3. **Acres Previously Acquired:** 0
4. **Cost to Date:** 0
5. **Acres to be Acquired:** 21,000 Acres
6. **Estimated Additional Cost:** \$22,000,000
7. **Description of Area:** Approximately 21,000 acres in Palm Beach and Martin counties. This tract lies between the District's L-8 Canal and the C-44 St. Lucie Canal.
8. **Consistency with Section 373.59 F.S.:** The property provides unique opportunities for water management, water supply, and conservation and protection of water resources due to its size and strategic location.
9. **Reasons for Acquisition:** By improved water level control, the wetlands in the eastern half of this parcel could be enhanced. Through construction of pumps, structure and conveyance facilities the property could form an integral part of a water supply plan for moving water between Water Conservation Area 1 and the St. Lucie Canal which could benefit the St. Lucie estuary.
10. **Recreational Potential:** Outstanding scenic values and an abundance and variety of wildlife within a half hour drive of Florida's Treasure Coast. Suitable for a wide variety of resource based outdoor recreational activities including hunting, fishing, nature appreciation, picnicking, camping, hiking, photography and horseback riding. Potential for separate or dual management by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission and the Florida Department of Natural Resources. Portion of area along Levee 8 represents the northeastern edge of the original Everglades and contains a number of undisturbed Indian mounds.
11. **Origin of Proposal:** The staff of the South Florida Water Management District.

White Belt Ranch

